Humberto Castro: Tracing Antilles

On view 10.16.13–02.03.14 at
The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, Miami
http://thefrost.fiu.edu
ists within Cuba.

Born in 1957, Castro graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts San Alejandro and Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA) in Havana. His visual works include paintings, drawings, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture and installation. In his early years, he also delved into performance art, using it often as a vehicle for social criticism.

In 1989, Castro emigrated to Paris, France, where he became active in the Parisian intellectual scene, holding exhibitions and giving conferences across Europe. In 1999, he moved to the US, where he currently lives and works.

Castro’s works continue to explore visual metaphors or fables based on the concept of historic immigration as the foundation for today’s society. Much of his imagery portrays human bondage juxtaposed with wing-like forms, suggesting transformation and spiritual release. Visual elements related to ocean travel and the movements of submerged figures play on the human experience of migration.

For this project, Castro traveled to Jamaica, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, where he collected material to be incorporated into mixed-media works for the installation. He stated that “the purpose of this travel was to make real contact with the islands and their populations in an effort to understand the long-term effects of colonialism.”

Comprising the new installation is a captivating blend of large-scale oil paintings and bronze sculptures, found objects, traditional crafts, photography and video—a revealing documentary of the historical and social complexity of the region in a visual fusion of the past with the present.

**On View**

*Humberto Castro’s “Tracing Antilles” is a revealing commentary on the history of migration and displacement.*