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Marisol Pops New York
Visitors to Enjoy First Time Solo Show of the Artist in a Museum in
New York Along With a Series of Public Programs
October 9, 2014 - January 10, 2015

NEW YORK, NY Sept. 3, 2014- El Museo del Barrio is proud to announce **MARISOL POPS NEW YORK!**, featuring the exhibition *MARISOL: Sculptures and Works on Paper*, which opens on October 9 and will remain on view until January 10, 2015; and a series of public programs for adult as well as families, including conversation series, the screening of an Andy Warhol film featuring Marisol; as well as art-making, storytelling and school-partnership programs.

“We are excited to celebrate the life and work of Marisol Escobar, an icon in American pop art. Marisol is a Venezuelan, born in Paris and living in New York—a museum retrospective survey of her work is long overdue in New York. We thank the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art for organizing this important study of a monumental artist,” says Jorge Daniel Veneciano, El Museo’s Executive Director, who plans to showcase an increasing repertoire of exhibitions by women artists in the coming years.

MARISOL: Sculptures and Works on Paper
October 9, 2014 - January 10, 2015

Press Preview

October 8, 2014, 10:00am - 12:00pm RSVP: calvarez@elmuseo.org

The exhibition represents the artist’s first solo show in a New York museum, features 30 works by the artist, and is the first retrospective to include Marisol’s work on paper in conjunction with her sculptures. The exhibition reestablishes Marisol as a major figure in postwar American art, fosters a broader understanding of her work, and positions it within a larger historical context. The various phases of Marisol’s career are explored, beginning with her early carvings, cast metal works, terracottas, large, complex sculptures, and a broad selection of works on paper.

“This exhibition reminds us of the significance of Marisol, who was always named among the most important American Pop artists of the period. It also



illustrates how her work differed from theirs in subject matter and in the materials she used,” says El Museo’s Curator, Rocío Aranda-Alvarado.

Marisol is best known for her large figural sculptures, which address a variety of subjects pivotally important in the second half of the twentieth century, including women’s social roles, new family dynamics, as well as historical and contemporary figures. Her sculptures, an amalgam of several artistic styles and references, are composed of drawn and painted elements; plaster casts, carved wood and stone, assembled plywood; industrial materials such as neon, AstroTurf, and mirrors; and many found objects including clothing, televisions, and baby carriages.

Among the themes explored in the exhibition are Marisol’s many influences (Neo-Dada, Surrealism, American and Latin American folk art, Pre-Columbian art, etc.); her relationship to postwar art and cultural movements (Pop, Minimalism, and Feminism); her experimentation with materials; her extensive use of portraiture; her politically charged sculptures; and her identity as a female artist from an eclectic background.

Curator of the exhibition, Marina Pacini, says of Marisol: “Marisol: Sculptures and Works on Paper brings together significant examples of her art from her witty sculptures to her emotionally charged prints and drawings. Her perceptive portraits of Pablo Picasso and Bishop Desmond Tutu share space with her moving rendering of President Kennedy’s funeral and her imaginative reworking of the nativity. As the exhibition makes plain, Marisol’s work is as complex as it is compelling, and it is especially fitting that it will be on view at El Museo del Barrio.”

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue, co-published between the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art and Yale University Press. It will be sold at El Museo’s gift shop, La Tienda.

This exhibition has been organized by the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, Tennessee; Marina Pacini, curator.

Premier Sponsors: The Jacques and Natasha Gelman Foundation

Sponsors: The Venezuelan American Endowment of the Arts

Círculo de Coleccionistas: Tony Bechara, and Nina Fuentes

National Sponsors: The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Henry Luce Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and FedEx Corporation.



**Más Marisol: A discussion with Marina Pacini and Catherine Morris
October 9, 6:30pm - 8:00pm @ El Museo del Barrio**

Marina Pacini (Chief Curator and Curator of American, Modern, and Contemporary Art, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art) talks about the life and work of Marisol in conversation with Catherine Morris (Sackler Family Curator for the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, Brooklyn Museum). Pacini builds a portrait of an artist exploring her perception of popular culture and her moment in history through a body of work that defies categorization. Morris frames the conversation in the context of feminist art and gives further insight on women artists working during the contemporary period.
FREE- RSVP Required

**Reframing Marisol
October 22, 5:30pm - 8:00pm @ El Museo del Barrio**

The evening kicks off with happy hour and the screening of Andy Warhol's experimental film, *The Kiss* (1963; 54 minutes) in El Café and is followed by a unique opportunity to learn more about Marisol's unique influences; from New York's Pop Art scene to Venezuela's folk traditions and Argentina's *Otra Figuración*. Deborah Cullen (Chief Curator, Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery, Columbia University) and Kalliope Minioudaki (Feminist Art Historian) will examine the artists and movements that came together in Marisol's distinctive approach and use of assemblage. Moderated by El Museo's Curator Rocío Aranda-Alvarado.
Screening 6:00pm - 7:00pm; conversation 7:00pm - 8:00pm.
FREE- RSVP Required

**SUPER SABADO: Cara a Cara
Saturday, November 15, 2014 12:00pm-5:00pm**

El Museo del Barrio's educators host *Manos a la Obra*, a space where visitors are invited to create their own artwork inspired by Marisol's signature wooden portrait sculptures.
FREE

ABOUT EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO:

El Museo del Barrio, New York's leading Latin American cultural institution, welcomes visitors of all backgrounds to discover the artistic landscape of Caribbean and Latin American cultures. Their richness is represented in El Museo's wide-ranging collections and critically acclaimed exhibitions, complemented by film, literary, visual and performing arts series, cultural celebrations, and educational programs. For more information on El Museo del Barrio, please visit www.elmuseo.org

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