



THE CUBAN ARTIST DANIEL BARRIO WILL BE THE PROTAGONIST OF THE THIRD EDITION OF OPEN BOOTH

Art Madrid presents Open Booth as a space open to new artists who are not yet represented within the gallery circuit, offering them a platform within a high-profile professional context.

Despiece. Protocolo de mutación is the title of the perceptual laboratory that Daniel Barrio (Cuba, 1988) has conceived for this edition, in which the walls and floor of the stand will be transformed into a kind of immersive space.

On Saturday, February 7 at 11:00 a.m., a visit to Daniel Barrio's studio in Madrid will take place, offering insight into the creative process behind the project that will be presented at the fair. Attendance must be confirmed with Mónica Iglesias by emailing info@studiomonicaiglesias.com. Places are limited.

Madrid, February 3, 2026: As part of the Art Madrid '26 Parallel Program, the third edition of Open Booth will be presented—an initiative dedicated to artistic creation and experimentation. This project highlights the importance of providing a platform for new voices that are not yet represented within the gallery circuit, but whose artistic vision brings renewal and vitality to the cultural landscape. Open Booth is conceived as a space where emerging artists can present their work, experiment with new ways of engaging audiences, and establish their presence within the contemporary art scene.

In this edition, Open Booth features Daniel Barrio (Cuba, 1988), a visual artist based in Madrid whose practice focuses on painting as a critical tool for exploring human experience and the dynamics of contemporary culture. His work offers a profound reflection on social commodification and the tyranny of media approval, transforming painting into a space for fulfillment, therapy, and catharsis. He works with images taken from the press and other media, manipulating them pictorially to strip them of their original content and open up new possibilities for interpretation, articulating discourses on processes of signification and the construction of meaning in today's society.

At Open Booth, his intervention activates a 25 m² white cube as a sensory and critical device, inviting the public to a direct experience that combines perception and reflection.

Despiece. Protocolo de mutación is a project that arises from a critical and emotional impulse to dismantle, examine, and recompose that which constitutes us culturally and personally. It is not a work in the traditional sense, but rather an archive in tension—a laboratory in which the relationship between history, matter, and human experience is put to the test. Each element functions as a gesture of confrontation with what we inherit, consume, and believe.

Overall, *Despiece. Protocolo de mutación* reflects on the tension between the sacred, the historical, and the ephemeral. The project proposes that truth is not found on the surface or in formal perfection, but rather in cracks, fissures within the material, and in the diagrams of force we are compelled to construct in order to sustain the unsustainable. It is an act of dismantling in which each element is articulated as a record of memory, violence, consumption, and devotion, creating a living archive that the viewer must walk through, lean over, and breathe in to fully understand. An interior landscape that operates as a device of suspicion, where floor, surface, and volume form an ecosystem of remains.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Daniel Barrio (Cienfuegos, Cuba, 1988) is a visual artist whose practice articulates space through painting, understanding the environment as an adulterated archive susceptible to critical intervention. He trained at the Academy of Fine Arts in Cienfuegos (2004–2008), specializing in painting, and later at the School of Cinematography and Audiovisual Arts of the Community of Madrid (ECAM) (2012–2015), where he studied Art Direction using a methodology that integrates plastic thinking with scenographic narrative.

His Cuban origins form the analytical foundation of his work, and his experience of observing how monuments and ideals reveal their fragility to the touch has given him a particular sensitivity for detecting cracks in what is presented as definitive. This perspective establishes reality as a surface under constant interrogation.

His career includes solo exhibitions such as *La levedad en lo cotidiano* (The Lightness of Everyday Life) (María Porto Gallery, Madrid, 2023), *Interiores ajenos* (Foreign Interiors) (PlusArtis, Madrid, 2022), and *Tribud* (Navel Art, Madrid, 2019), as well as notable group exhibitions including *Space is the Landscape* (Estudio Show, Madrid, 2024), *Winterlinch* (Espacio Valverde Gallery, Madrid, 2024), *Hiberia* (María Porto Gallery, Lisbon, 2023), and the traveling exhibition *Young Art of La Rioja* (2022).

A member of the Resiliencia Collective, his work does not seek to produce objects but rather to articulate pictorial devices that generate protocols of resistance against the flow of disposable images. In a context saturated with immediate data, his practice produces traces and archives of what should remain, questioning not the meaning of the work itself but the memory the viewer constructs when interacting with it—thus reclaiming sovereignty over the gaze and inhabiting the ruins as a method for understanding the present.

ART MADRID

March 4 to 8, 2026.

Galería de Cristal of the Palacio de Cibeles.

C/ Montalbán 1, next to Plaza de Cibeles.

art-madrid.com

More Information:

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