

Press Release

Daniel Lind-Ramos: *Ensamblajes* at Nottingham Contemporary

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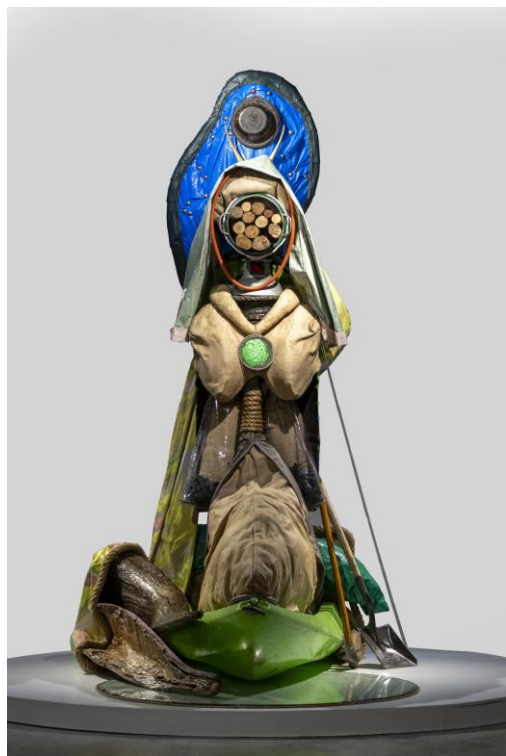


Image: Daniel Lind Ramos, *Centinela de la luna negra (Centinel of the black moon)*, 2022-23, Mixed media. Courtesy the artist and The Ranch. Photo: Steven Paneccasio.

Nottingham Contemporary is delighted to present the first major exhibition of artist Daniel Lind-Ramos (b. 1953, Puerto Rico) in a European institution, showcasing five of the artists' monumental sculptural assemblages, including a newly commissioned work.

Lind-Ramos lives and works in Loíza, a coastal town on the northeastern edge of Puerto Rico. The town is a hub of West African cultural traditions kept alive by the resident 'afrodescendientes', descendants of former enslaved people who founded Loíza in the 16th century. Lind-Ramos has spent much of his life there, immersed in the stories, history, traditions and culture passed down through generations.

The power of memory and storytelling is central to Lind-Ramos' work. He creates evocative sculptural assemblages that reflect Puerto Rican historical and contemporary experiences, imbued with the storytelling traditions of his Afro-descendent history and inviting reflections on sustenance and the regenerative power of community. The totemic sculptures incorporate objects found washed up on beaches and mangroves local to his hometown of Loíza, or gifted from friends, family and community members. Items such as kayaks, plant material, burlap sacks, boots and mattress springs, all individually allude to fragmented stories, but when combined they conjure imagery of the artist's home, its communities, customs and land as well as its entanglement with colonial histories and global environmental disaster.

The five works, presented across two large scale galleries at Nottingham Contemporary, honour fast-disappearing local customs of agriculture, fishing and cooking, and reflect on the impacts of ongoing ecological disasters and global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The history and traditions of storytelling from Loíza are represented in *El Viejo Griot* (2022-23), which invokes a character from Loíza's annual Fiestas de Santiago Apóstol – el viejo (which translates as elder storyteller), to narrate critical events in Puerto Rican and Caribbean history representative of Black victories over European domination.

In *Ambulancia* (2020) (2022-23), created during the COVID-19 pandemic, a haunting creature-like figure incorporates objects such as an emergency siren light, a Tannoy speaker, mattress springs, a wheelbarrow, a pair of leather boots and plastic tubing to explore collective experiences of trauma and loss.

Ecocritical themes have become increasingly present in more recent works. *Centinelas de la luna nueva* (2022-23) and *Centinelas de la luna negra* (2022-23), both part of Lind-Ramos' series of mangrove works, will be presented alongside new commission *The Green Guardian* (2024). All three works explore the relationship between the mangroves and local ecology of Puerto Rico with the wider global ecosystem, the circulation of waste, issues of environmental change and extreme weather. These majestic figurative works are presented as post-human eco-ancestral guardians of the mangroves and consider the mangrove's cultural, spiritual and ecological importance as protector against erosion and climate change.

Lind-Ramos' use of existing objects and found materials testifies to the fragile ecosystems and cycles through which we are all interconnected. By bringing these objects together in new forms he highlights the importance of celebrating local cultures whilst also understanding the global need for the support and protection of our ecosystems, so they in turn can protect us.

For more information about Daniel Lind Ramos and other exhibitions at Nottingham Contemporary, please [visit our website](#).

Notes to Editors:

For more information and images please contact:

Andy Batson at Nottingham Contemporary
Email: andy@nottinghamcontemporary.org
Phone: +44 (0) 115 948 9762

Catherine Masters at Nottingham Contemporary
Email: cmasters@nottinghamcontemporary.org

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The Commissioning Circle: Nisreen Darawish, Gabriela Galcerán, Hamza Serafi, Paula del Sol and those who wish to remain anonymous.

The exhibition is curated by Ali Roche and Niall Farrelly.

About Daniel Lind-Ramos

Daniel Lind-Ramos's work was included in the 2019 edition of the Whitney Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York and was the recipient of a 2019 Joan Mitchell Foundation grant. In 2021, Daniel was awarded the prestigious McArthur Foundation's Genius Fellowship Award for his contributions in sculpture. In 2023, MoMA PS1 presented the largest exhibition of his work to date titled *El Viejo Griot — Una historia de todos nosotros*.

In the past three years, Lind-Ramos's works have entered numerous public collections such as The National Gallery of Art, District of Columbia; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Institute of Contemporary Art Museum, Miami, Florida; The Perez Museum, Miami, Florida; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico (MACPR), San Juan, Puerto Rico.

About Nottingham Contemporary

[Nottingham Contemporary](https://www.nottinghamcontemporary.org) is one of the leading and largest centres for contemporary art in Europe with a strong international, national and local profile. Since opening in 2009, we have welcomed over 2 million visitors – with free admission for all – to our highly ambitious programme that has featured hundreds of artists and cultural practitioners from across the globe.

Our artistic and learning programmes of exhibitions, events and screenings explore less-historicised art practices, cultural movements, histories and geographies to propose alternative narratives for conventional histories and stimulate important discussions about culture and society. We support artists at different stages of their careers – from first-time solo shows in the UK to surveys of renowned or overlooked figures – and regularly present significant thematic exhibitions and major artist-curated projects. Nottingham Contemporary was shortlisted for Art Fund Museum of the Year 2019. Nottingham Contemporary is supported using public funding by Arts Council England and through our partnerships with the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University.

Nottingham Contemporary, Weekday Cross, Nottingham NG1 2GB, +44 (0)115 948 9750
www.nottinghamcontemporary.org