

# THE WHOLE WORLD IS CHURNING: THEN AND NOW | NOW AND BEYOND

## **Curated by:**

Rosie Gordon-Wallace

## **Featured Artists:**

Rimaj Barrientos

Michael Elliott

Chris Friday

Erman Gonzalez

Izia Lindsay

Rhasaan Oyasaba Manning

Kurt Nahar

Devora Pérez

Clara Toro

Stephanie J. Woods

## **Solo Exhibition:**

Magikal Entities

by Asser Saint-Val



## **The Whole World is Churning: Then and Now and Now and Beyond**

*Produced by Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator at Barry University.*

*Curated by Rosie Gordon-Wallace.*

DVCAI at Barry University

November 19, 2024 - April 18, 2025

Monday - Thursday 7:30 am - 10:00 pm

Friday 7:30 am - 8:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am - 8:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am - 10:00 pm

Monsignor William Barry Library

11300 NE 2nd Ave

Miami FL 33161

*paid parking lot.*

*This contemporary art exhibition inaugurates a partnership between the non-profit Arts Incubator DVCAI and Barry University's Institute of Immigration Studies.*

### **For additional information or special requests, please contact:**

Tanya Desdunes, DVCAI Executive Director

[tanya@dvcaiteam.org](mailto:tanya@dvcaiteam.org) or 786.306.0191

Rosie Gordon-Wallace, DVCAI President | Curator

[rosie@dvcai.org](mailto:rosie@dvcai.org) or 305.542.4277

The Library's main desk

305.899.3760.

*Extended hours will be offered during Miami's Art Week.*

### **Accessibility and Accommodation:**

*The exhibition venue is accessible. To request materials in an accessible format at least five days in advance, please contact Rosie Gordon-Wallace at [rosie@dvcai.org](mailto:rosie@dvcai.org).*

Podcasts: [MiamiandBeaches.com](http://MiamiandBeaches.com)

Shop catalogs online at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or [dvcai.org](http://dvcai.org)

[www.dvcai.org](http://www.dvcai.org)

[www.barry.edu/en/institute-for-immigration-studies](http://www.barry.edu/en/institute-for-immigration-studies)



### *The Whole World is Churning: Then and Now and Now and Beyond*

is an exhibition of ten diasporic artists who explore past, present, and future possibilities. Gleaning knowledge from memory and materials, they deconstruct, recreate, and agitate. Curated by Rosie Gordon-Wallace, presenting artists include Rimaj Barrientos, Michael Elliott, Chris Friday, Erman Gonzalez, Izia Lindsay, Rhasaan Oyasaba Manning, Kurt Nahar, Devora Pérez, Clara Toro, and Stephanie J. Woods.

An embedded solo exhibition 'Magikal Entities' celebrates the achievements of DVCAI's first studio artist, Asser Saint-Val, whose oeuvre includes mixed media paintings, installation art, and collaborative performances. 'Magikal Entities' is deeply rooted in spirituality and informed by the artist's research on neuromelanin and the subconscious mind.

This exhibition is organized by Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator (DVCAI) with support from Giselle Rios, Ph.D., endowed chair of the Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh Institute for Immigration Studies, and Vivica Smith Pierre, MLIS, Ph.D., Director of Library Services. Major exhibition support is provided by The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

An opening reception on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm DVCAI at Barry University, Monsignor William Barry Memorial Library, Institute of Immigration Studies Gallery located at 69 NE 115th St, Miami, FL 33161, featured Asser Saint-Val's MICPO-MAHNEWL, a code for "inner power," a multidisciplinary art installation and performance created in collaboration with artist/designer Kim Yantis, guitarist Alejandro Infante, and body painter/sculptor Adrienne Tabet. Centered around a new air sculpture by Saint-Val, attendees will experience a dynamic installation, a singular performer, electric guitar improvisation, and silent disco headphones. MICPO-MAHNEWL is more than just an art piece; it encourages us to recognize, affirm, and harness the inherent genius within each of us.

"This exhibition platform in Miami expands the opportunity for Caribbean artists and those of Caribbean and diasporic descent, as they move their careers from emerging to midcareer, to work engage with the public and students at Barry University," states Founder | Curator Rosie Gordon-Wallace. Gordon-Wallace has worked for 28 years to engender a community of practice that comes together at the increasingly complex intersection of race, class, and location. The exhibition is organized by Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator, an iconic arts institution strategically positioned to give a voice to under-represented artists in the New World Diaspora.

**Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator, Inc.** is a virtual artist space, dedicated to promoting, nurturing, and cultivating the vision and diverse creativity of emerging artists from the Caribbean and Latin American Diaspora, through experimentation, exhibitions, artists-in-residence programs, international cultural exchanges, and dialog in contemporary art. [www.dvcai.org](http://www.dvcai.org). DVCAI partners with organizations to enhance residency experiences in the Caribbean region, nationally, and internationally. For more information, please visit [www.dvcai.org](http://www.dvcai.org) and follow our activities at [www.instagram.com/dvcai](https://www.instagram.com/dvcai) [www.twitter.com/DiasporaVibe](https://www.twitter.com/DiasporaVibe).

## **Barry University**

A Catholic institution of higher education, Barry University was founded in 1940 by the Adrian Dominican Sisters. Grounded in the liberal arts tradition, Barry is a scholarly community committed to the highest academic standards in undergraduate, graduate, and professional education. In the Catholic intellectual tradition, the integration of study, reflection, and action inform intellectual life. Faithful to this tradition, a Barry education and university experience foster individual and communal transformation, where learning leads to knowledge and truth, reflection leads to informed action, and a commitment to social justice leads to collaborative service. Barry is a University community where all are welcome.

## **The Monsignor William Barry Memorial Library**

Located in the center of the Miami Shores campus of Barry University, the Library is named in loving memory of Monsignor William Barry, one of the founders of Barry University and an inspirational figure in the Catholic Church within the Archdiocese of Miami. Vivica Smith Pierre, MLIS, PhD., Director of Library Services, an accomplished educator, academic librarian, and researcher, leads the library's administration and vision.

## **Barry University Institute of Immigration Studies**

A gift from Max and Ester Alvarez '71 and family made it possible to endow the position of Giselle Rios, Ph.D, Founding Director, to guide and implement the vision of the Institute. As Rios, professor of music, assistant chair of fine arts, and now endowed chair of the Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh Institute for Immigration Studies, Though the institute isn't a brick-and-mortar building, the ideas and research behind it give scholars and students the ability to study the immigration experience in South Florida and to identify ways to better that experience for the state's roughly 4.5 million immigrants.

## About the curator



### **Rosie Gordon-Wallace**

(she/ her/ hers)

Rosie Gordon-Wallace is a recognized curator, arts advocate, community leader, and pioneer in advancing contemporary Caribbean diaspora art. She founded the Diaspora Vibe Culture Arts Incubator (DVCAI) to serve as a local and global laboratory dedicated to promoting, nurturing, and cultivating the vision and diverse talents of emerging artists from the Caribbean Diaspora, artists of color, and immigrant artists. Twenty-eight years later, DVCAI is recognized as a global resource and one of the region's leading platforms dedicated to providing diaspora artists with an avenue to explore and experiment with new forms and themes that challenge traditional definitions of Caribbean and Latin American art. Her awards include the Knight Foundation Cultural Award, The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center Third Annual Calabash Amadlozi Visual Arts Award, International Businesswoman of the Year, and One of South Florida's 50 Most Powerful Black Professionals to name a few. In 2021, she was recognized by the Pérez Art Museum Miami's International Women's Committee as International Woman of the Year. Her recent curations include *Inter | Sectionality: Diaspora Art from The Creole City* at The Miami Design District, and *Illuminate Coral Gables: A City Looks to Light*, city of Coral Gables, Florida, and more recently "Chromatic Cogitations" alumni artist in residence exhibition at Redline Contemporary Arts in Denver, Colorado, "I M(O)ther: Threads of the Maternal Figure" Katrina Coombs, at Sarasota Museum of Art in Sarasota, Florida, and "ORDER MY STEPS: There are no answers here, move on", Roscoë B. Thické III at Oolite Arts, in Miami, Florida.



# Magikal Entities

Solo Exhibition



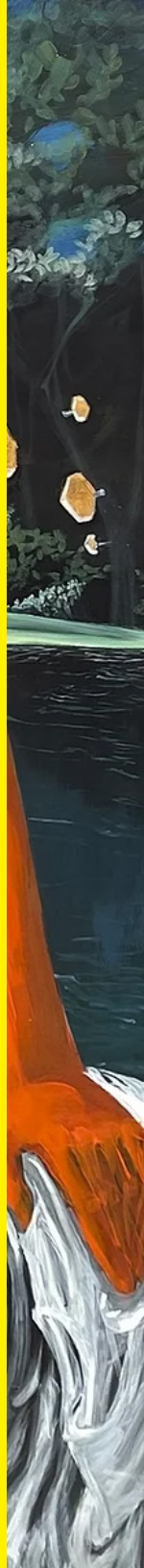
## Asser Saint-Val

(he/ him/ his)

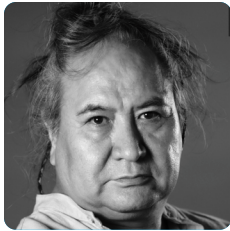
An embedded solo exhibition 'Magikal Entities' celebrates the achievements of DVCAI's first studio artist, Asser Saint-Val, whose oeuvre includes mixed media paintings, installation art, and collaborative performances. 'Magikal Entities' is deeply rooted in spirituality and informed by the artist's research on neuromelanin and the subconscious mind.

Centered around a new inflatable air sculpture by Saint-Val, the work MICPO-MAHNEWL, a code for "inner power," is a multidisciplinary art installation and performance created in collaboration with artist/designer Kim Yantis, guitarist Alejandro Infante, and body painter/sculptor Adrienne Tabet. During the live performance, attendees will experience a dynamic installation, a singular performer, electric guitar improvisation, and silent disco headphones. Ongoing viewers can experience elements of the performative work. MICPO-MAHNEWL is more than just an art piece; it encourages us to recognize, affirm, and harness the inherent genius within each of us.

Asser Saint-Val originally from Haiti, moved to South Florida, where he earned B.F.A.s in painting and graphic design from the New World School of the Arts. His art has been exhibited in Florida, New York, and throughout the Caribbean and is represented in numerous private collections. St. Val is a painter, sculptor, and installation artist. His quasi-figurative images, and by turn humorous and grotesque, bring together ideas, people, and incidents central to modern debates about the definition and valence of neuromelanin. Rendered in a blend of traditional art mediums and a wide range of unconventional, organic materials - coffee, chocolate, ginger, and, tea among them- his pictures, objects, and environments are a surreal fantasia on such loosely linked themes as under-recognized African American inventors, the politics of sexual desire, and the complex aesthetics, narratives, and metaphors that attach to the organic compound neuromelanin. St. Val has a decades-long affiliation with DVCAI.



# Featured Artists



## Rimaj Barrientos

(he/ him/ his)

Rimaj Sunqö Barrientos embarked on a transformative journey in 1981 when he immigrated from Bolivia to Miami, which became his new home and a place to firmly establish his roots. In 1991, he graduated from the University of Miami, earning dual degrees in Architecture and Arts. For the past 32 years, Rimaj played an integral role in the burgeoning Miami arts movement. His contributions include the creation of several monumental sculptures for public spaces in Dade County, Broward County, and Polk County. His artistic reach extends far beyond the shores of Miami, with exhibitions in galleries in Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Belgium, Italy, Frankfurt, Paris, Bolivia, and Puerto Rico. Rimaj's unwavering dedication and passion for the arts are innate sparks that have illuminated his path from the very beginning. These guiding forces continue to fuel his artistic journey, driving him to explore and cultivate the discovery of beauty in all its diverse forms.



## Michael Elliott

(he/ him/ his)

Michael Elliott, a Jamaican-born visual artist, attended the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts. Elliott's artistic journey has taken him into a socio-political realm, focusing on painting as his medium but also photography at times. His experiences with photography influenced his photorealistic style of painting. Michael's work uses symbolism to represent his themes, especially in the intimately tuned still-life pieces. Symbolic references in Michael's works include the use of tea cups or tea bags in the popular Empire Windrush series and shredded paper to represent corruption and cover-ups. The genre of the work can sometimes cross over into surrealism. Throughout the development of Michael's career, he has associated himself with various alliances in the art world, the most recent one being DVCAI (Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator) which has amplified his exposure on an International stage.





## Chris Friday

(she/ her/ hers)

Chris Friday is a multidisciplinary artist based in Miami. Her work serves as both a contemplative reflection of and counter-narrative to the pervasive under/misrepresentations of Blackness in mainstream media and popular culture. Friday's portfolio features large-scale works on paper, murals, video, ceramics, projections, photography, comic illustrations, and social practice/activism through curating. Friday's work has been included in exhibitions locally, nationally, and internationally, including recent solo exhibitions such as "Good Times" curated by Laura Novoa and presented at Oolite Arts (2023), "One More River" presented at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee, and her work as part of "The Cartography Project" presented by the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. (2022).

Friday has received numerous awards, fellowships, and grants, including being a South Arts Southern Prize and State fellowship recipient for the State of Florida (2023), receiving a Knight Foundation "Knights Champion" support grant (2022), and residencies with MassMoCA (2023), Anderson Ranch Arts Center (2022), and the Visual Arts Residency at Chautauqua Institute (2019).



## Erman Gonzalez

(he/ him/ his)

Erman Gonzalez is a Cuban-born artist living and working in Miami, Florida. As an exile, he addresses migration, up-rootedness, and displacement by using manipulated, repurposed, and post-production recycled goods to create narratives of imagined worlds and their inhabitants. He often reflects on "el camino," the metaphorical and actual path he has traveled since first working with DVCAI in 2002. With a background in fiber arts and couture, his visual art practice utilizes his practical experiences of sewing, pattern-making, and drawing. He considers his material gifts and precious elements to be honored, re-used, and re-contextualized.



## Izia Lindsay

(he/ him/ his)

Izia Lindsay is a mixed-media artist who explores both digital and traditional media. His artwork addresses symbolism in Caribbean iconography that is rooted in tradition but interpreted with contemporary ideas. His subject matter tackles issues of identity and class in a post-colonial society. His research stems from material culture, indigenous societies, traditions, and the ever-changing landscape of the Caribbean. Lindsay has also been working in the creative industry for over ten years and is currently an Assistant Professor at Augustana University where he teaches graphic design, multimedia, illustration, and typography. He is also known for his large colorful mural installations that can be seen at Wynwood Arts District, the University of the West Indies, the University of Miami, Suriname, and Barbados to name a few.



## Rhasaan Oyasaba Manning

(he/ him/ his)

Rhasaan Oyasaba Manning is a native Brooklynite, born, raised, and presently residing in Flatbush. He is a proud coconut, whose family hails from Carriacou, Grenada, Barbuda, and Antigua. He is a father, a visual artist, musician, actor, producer, director, photographer, writer, and editor. Manning graduated from Yale University with a BA in Architecture in 1994, where he learned the history of art from Vincent Scully, photography from Lois Conner and Tod Papageorge, and architecture from Kent Bloomer, Alexander Purves et al. His work focuses on duality, inversion, nihilism, self-destruction, and the struggle for freedom; the point is not to point the finger of judgment, but to open the fist which suffocates the wisdom of the heart. The artist summarises his practice with the statement "I mark the blank paper, I make sounds that dance with silence, I speak my mind, I share what I make, and I document it because neither I nor my experiences are expendable; if anything we are expandable."



## Stephanie J. Woods

(she/her/hers)

Stephanie J. Woods is a multimedia artist from Charlotte, NC, currently based in Albuquerque, NM, where she is an Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Art at UNM. In 2021 Woods was announced the Gibbes Museum 1858 Prize winner of Contemporary Southern Art and attended a life-changing residency at Black Rock Senegal located in Dakar. Woods is the recipient of several other residencies and fellowships, including the Fine Arts Work Center fellowship, ACRE Residency, the McColl Center for Art + Innovation, Ox-Bow School of Art and Artists Residency, and Penland School of Craft. She has also exhibited her work at Smack Mellon, located in Brooklyn, NY, and Tiger Strikes Asteroid, also located in Brooklyn, NY. Her work is featured in the permanent collection at the Virginia Museum of Fine Art, located in Richmond, VA, and she has been featured in BOMB Magazine, Art Papers, Burnaway, and the Boston Art Review.



## Kurt Nahar

(he/ him/ his)

Kurt Nahar, from Paramaribo, Suriname began his art education at the Nola Hatterman Art Academy in Suriname and continued his studies at the Edna Manley College for the Visual and the Performing arts in Jamaica. Nahar is a visual artist who expresses his thoughts and emotions on various subjects related to the questionable social and political circumstances in Suriname and in other countries worldwide. He believes that artists have a responsibility to expose their viewers to social realities. He does so in a bold and often confrontational manner, using collage and painting techniques, multiple objects, and striking wordplay, often in his native Dutch language. He strives to increase awareness and stimulate discussion about the sensitive subjects of political injustice, social inequality, and the widespread abuse of power. His technique is inspired by the methods of his predecessors from the era of Dadaism. Nahar is affiliated with Readytex Art Gallery in Suriname and with DVCAI as part of its International Cultural Exchange and Artist-in-Residence programs.



## Devora Perez

(she/her/hers)

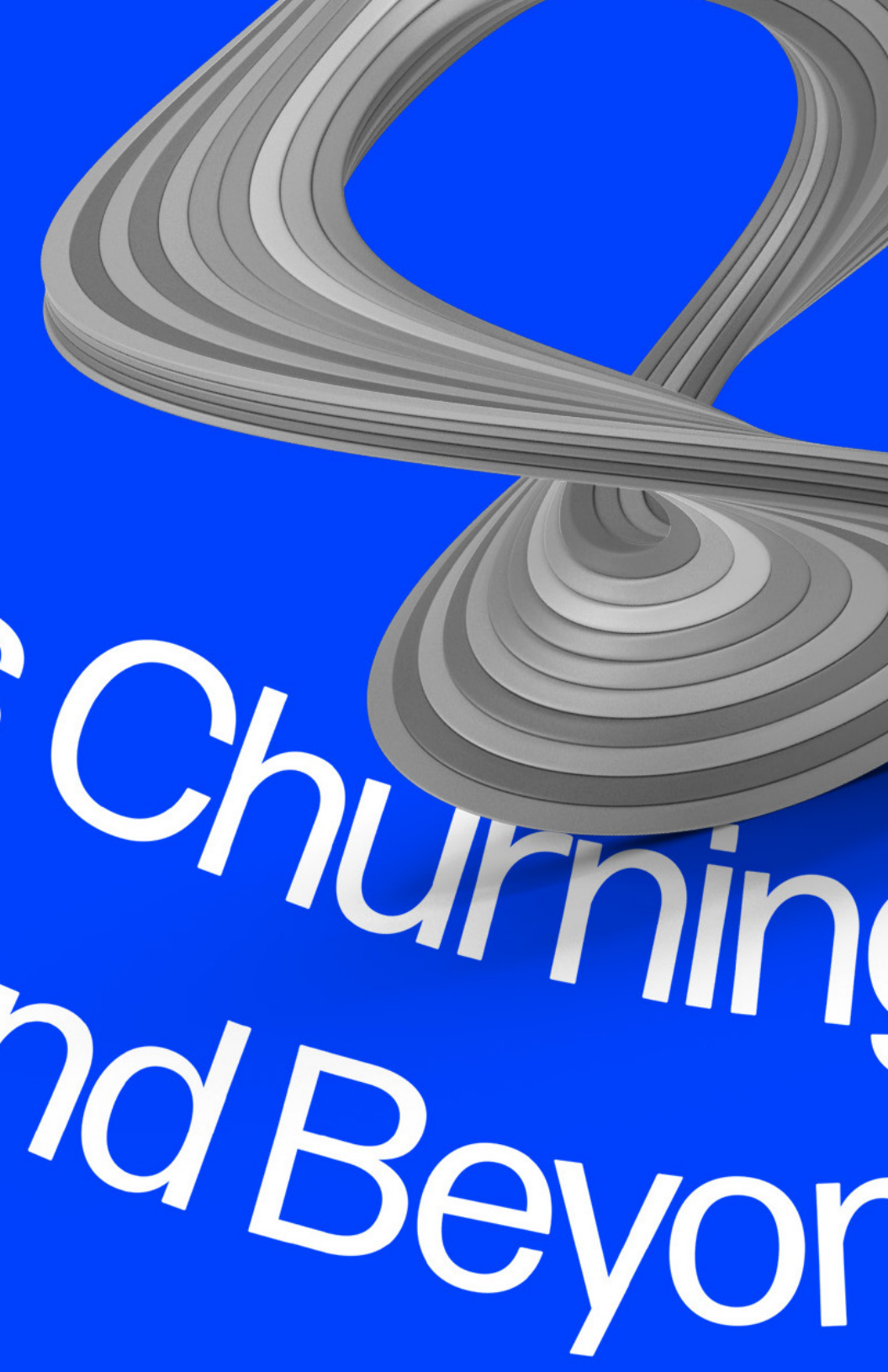
Devora Perez is a visual artist, born and based in Miami. She earned her BFA from New World School of the Arts in 2016, and her MFA from Florida International University in 2020. Perez participated in a one-year residency program with Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator (DVCAI) in 2018. In the same year she traveled to Belize as an artist ambassador, as part of DVCAI's International Cultural Exchange program funded by Miami Dade Department of Cultural Affairs. She was awarded the Betty Laird Perry Award from the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum in 2020. Her work has been featured in multiple group exhibitions, most notably: Urgent, Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation, Miami FL (2016), Inter|Sectionality: Diaspora Art from the Creole City, Corcoran Museum, Washington, D.C (2019), A.I.M Biennial, Miami, FL (2020), It Feels Too Familiar 2021 Redux, Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, Miami, FL (2021), Color + Light + Space, Coral Springs Museum of Art, Coral Springs, FL (2021) and At the Edge, Oolite Arts, Miami Beach, FL (2022).



## Clara Toro

(she/her/hers)

Clara Toro is a Colombian industrial designer and photographer. She graduated from Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana and studied at Université de Montreal and Pratt Institute. Clara holds a degree in Documentary Practice and Visual Journalism from the International Center of Photography, where she received a Director's Fellowship and graduated in December 2023 from the PhotoEspaña master's program. She is a DVCAI Photo-Eye photographer, resident artist at The Bakehouse Art Complex, and member of the Women Photographers International Archive WOPHA. She is a winner of a 2022 Ellies Creator Award for her project "Eight minutes" about the historic, endangered Wynwood Norte neighborhood in Miami, and is currently developing a project about the Allapattah neighborhood in Miami, in which she is documenting the stories of its residents, before the impending changes.



Churning  
nd Beyor

# Special Thanks

## DVCAI Team:

Tanya Desdunes

*Executive Director*

Gordon Myers

*Director of Performances*

Roy Anthony Wallace

*Photographer & Logistics Director*

Kim Yantis

*Grant Writer*

Izia Lindsay

*Director of Digital Design*

Dr. Alix Pierre, Ph.D.

*DVCAI Resident Scholar*

Lauryn M. Lawrence

*IMLS Catalyst Fellow 2024-25*

Lance Minto-Strouse

*IMLS Catalyst Fellow 2024-25*

## Barry University Staff:

Special Thanks to Barry University Staff.

Dr Mike Allen, Ph.D.

*President Barry University*

Special Thanks to

Gerald Moore, Esq.

*Chairman of the Board of Directors & the  
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Dr Victor Romano, Ph.D.

*Vice Provost*

Dr. Giselle Elgarresta Rios, Ph.D.

*Director of the Institute for  
Immigration Studies.*

Dr. Vivica Smith Pierre, MLIS, Ph.D.

*Director of Library Services. Monsignor  
Barry Walsh Library.*

Thanks to The Monsignor Barry Walsh  
Library Staff.

A special thanks to The Barry University  
Security Staff.

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## **DVCAI Board of Directors**

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