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Tania Bruguera outside the proposed location for INSTAR.

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Courtesy of Institute of Artivism Hannah Arendt

Cuban Artist Tania Bruguera Wants to Open the Institute of Artivism in Havana

ALEXANDRA MARTINEZ | APRIL 1, 2016 | 9:05AM

One of the driving goals behind Fidel Castro's 1959 Cuban Revolution was the *alfabetización* (literacy) campaign. The country believed that reading and writing radically empowers the individual, allowing them to cultivate thought. Today, Cuban artist and activist Tania Bruguera is taking that movement a step further.

Bruguera is calling for civic *alfabetización*: a campaign to educate locals about their rights as

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Artivismo Hannah Arendt (INSTAR). It would be a space where locals and international visiting artists can create peaceful tools for policy change and civic literacy.

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"I realized that a lot of the political violence was because people lack understanding of their rights," Bruguera says. "We cannot read what we want, some things are forbidden, and we cannot write what we think. We need to learn to be free. A lot of Cubans do not know what freedom is.

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"With all this transition, education should be a key element for people to understand what's going on."



Source: <http://www.miaminewtimes.com/arts/cuban-artist-tania-bruguera-wants-to-open-the-institute-of-artivism-in-havana-8349249>

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Cuba is in the midst of historic change. After President Obama's visit, American corporations Cisco, General Electric, and Google have already announced they're working on deals with the Cuban government. But as commercial doors open, locals still suffer from censorship. Dissident artists and activists are getting detained on a weekly basis. Most recently, **Danilo Maldonado Machado "El Sexto" was detained for four hours while attending a Porno Para Ricardo concert** – Escándalo Público – held the same day as the Rolling Stones concert.

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Bruguera is no stranger to this plight. After Obama announced neutralizing ties with Cuba in December 2014, the artist was detained three times for trying to organize a public performance about free speech in Havana's Plaza de la Revolución. She had planned to set up a microphone and invite people to express their visions for Cuba.

"I was censored and [the piece] forbidden to show in Cuba. I realized then that this new relationship with the U.S., it was

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building up. Are we going to be capitalist? Are we going to be Russia? That's what I want the Institute to be, a way to unpack all of these paradoxes in a way that people can navigate nonviolently."

She plans to open INSTAR in her home in Old Havana, a central neighborhood where locals and tourists coexist. The institute will host artists, politicians, economists, and philosophers from all over who can engage and educate the local Cuban community. But most important, the institute will use art as a powerful communication tool. Bruguera sees art as a way to help people project the change they want to see.

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Courtesy of Institute of Artivism Hannah Arendt

"We want to change the culture of complaining to a culture of action," she says. "I think artists can work and deal with the

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way of seeing ourselves. Through art, you can create a space in which you behave in a world you want, not the one that exists."

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She's crowdfunding the project through Kickstarter and has already surpassed her \$100,000

goal. The prizes Bruguera has designed for donors are not typical benefits. Pledging \$100 will get you a message "mule" – the artist will personally deliver a message to whomever you want in Cuba. A donation of \$250 or more can get you a "blackmail" – she'll have someone follow you around and find something to blackmail you with. These prizes are representative of the lack of trust Cubans experience daily.

"I want people who pledge to understand the psychological pressure you're under when you do this type of work. I came up with rewards that reproduce in a way what you have to go through or how you feel," she says. "In Cuba there is a phrase that I love"

0:43 The Ten Best Sandwich
0:56 Miami's Eight Best Football
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espera. You never know what past awaits you."

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Now that INSTAR is fully funded, the project will begin this September. Ultimately, Bruguera hopes to see Cuba move away from the *cultura de resolver* (culture of resolving) and grow into "a place that is still where people can see themselves and be proud of themselves."

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Institute of Artivism/Instituto de Artivismo Hannah Arendt

You can still donate via [Kickstarter](#) until Thursday, April 7. Visit [artivism.institute](#) for further updates.

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Art Basel Miami Beach 2016

Photo by George Martinez

Art Basel Agrees to Five More Years at the Miami Beach Convention Center

CIARA LAVELLE | SEPTEMBER 29, 2017 | 11:47AM

Since the Swiss art fair Art Basel launched a sister show in South Florida, the event has been held at the Miami Beach Convention Center. That won't change anytime soon. Art Basel and the City of Miami Beach announced today they have agreed to a new, five-year lease that will keep Art Basel Miami Beach coming back to the convention center through 2023.

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The long-term lease will bind Basel to the Beach beginning in 2019 and guarantees Art Basel exclusive use

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run. That includes the venue's new ballroom and meeting spaces. In return, the convention center will provide a direct connection via elevator and escalator between the exhibit halls and the second-floor ballroom, according to the release.

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In April, the *Miami Herald* reported that Art Basel was considering a ten-year deal with the

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convention center, contingent in part on providing an escalator and an elevator that weren't in the venue's original redesign plans. According to the *Herald*, the additions cost an estimated \$2.8 million, and Miami Beach commissioners agreed to pay Fentress Architects an additional \$124,240 to incorporate those elements into the final design.

the time Art Basel originally considered – comes as a disappointment.

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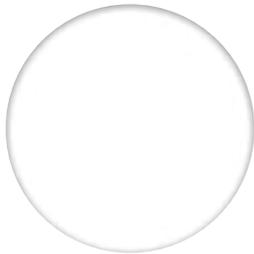
But for local businesses, the lease renewal is still a big deal. "This agreement is comparable to locking in the Super Bowl for five years," Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine said in a statement. And

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he's not far off. Some economists have estimated that the fair brings up to \$500 million to the area each year, as high-rolling collectors descend on South Florida to buy art and party (though perhaps not in that order).

Residents, meanwhile, can look forward to seeing world-class art, sneaking past velvet ropes, and sitting in legendary Art Basel traffic for years to come.

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Ciara LaVelle is *New Times'* arts and culture editor. She earned her in journalism at Boston University and moved Florida in 2004. She joined *New Times'* staff in 2011 and left the paper in 2014, but two years or two babies later, returned.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

How To Surviv...

Thu., Nov. 2,
10:00am

John Cleese

Fri., Nov. 3,
8:00pm

Playwright's R...

Fri., Nov. 3,
7:30pm

Tarzan The Sta...

Sat., Nov. 4,
7:30pm

New World Da...

Fri., Nov. 3,
8:00pm

Tracy Morgan

Sat., Nov. 4,
8:00pm

"Kindertransp...

Wed., Oct. 18,
7:00pm

Playwright's M...

Sun., Nov. 5,
10:00am

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