

12 Havana Biennale. 23<sup>th</sup> May- 22<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

# SUSANA PILAR DM

Newsletter

New works presented at  
12 Havana Biennale

Contact.  
Cajón for Ana Mendieta.

We got it curly.  
Competition for natural  
AFRO hair.

El tanque  
Performance

Poem without name  
Performance for video.

Happy or sad  
Intervention



## We got it curly. First edition in Havana, Cuba. 2015. Competition for natural AFRO hair.

This action navigates through the beauty canon we have in our society today, specifically the Cuban society. The natural hair has been sub-valorated and under-estimated. Keratina and all kinds of relaxing processes are on the top and less dark skin women are willing to use their natural hair even when those chemicals affect their health. The pressure of the society is sometimes more strong and they don't find a way to keep up with the natural hair.



Day of the competition.  
Photo: Ailen Maleta

I got the idea to create a competition in which the natural hair had a protagonist place and by this way society would turn the eyes into its value and beauty as well as the women who are not yet decided what to do with their hair. The competition got a strong impact in the society and gave a great visibility to the afro hair in its natural state.

## Poem without name. Performance for video. 2015.



Still del video

## Happy or sad II Public intervention.

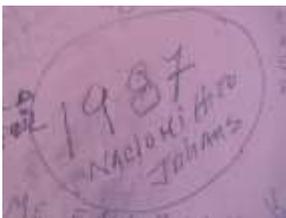


Photo: Susana Pilar DM

In this second version I encouraged people to use wall of an old building in their neighborhood and share their happiest or saddest year.

The building is part of their history and had marks of frames in the walls. They not only used the marks but felt the need to write all over the room.

## Contact.

### Cajón for Ana Mendieta.

It was a homage to the spirit of artist Ana Mendieta.

The ceremony brought together various practicums of the afro religion in Cuba: **“santeras” and “babalaos”**,



Video still.

as well as every person who would like to participate in this ceremony.

The ceremony just focused on Ana Mendieta, not her work, just the spirit.

The musicians (cajoneros), the decoration, the food, the mediums and the drinks where related to the nature of the ceremony.

## EL TANQUE

Performance in collaboration with Asunción Matienzo Serra

This action is directed to the sacrifice and pain with the finality of reaching a canon of beauty. Canons which are different than we own by nature. The transformation of the body looking up for a canon that gives us a social acceptance is the main point of this action.

During the performance I had a hot metal comb straighten up my hair. Right after this I put my head inside a recipient of cold water to bring my hair to its original state.



Photo: Nuria Guell



DE  
GULDEN  
Leeuw.

Regina Vogel

**AHS**



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