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**For Immediate Release**

**Gamaliel Rodriguez: *A Third Way To Look At You*  
September 1 to October 21, 2017**

The Crisp-Ellert Art Museum and Flagler College are pleased to announce the exhibition *A Third Way To Look At You*, recent work by artist Gamaliel Rodriguez, to kick off the 2017-2018 academic year. Included in the exhibition will be work from the artist's *Figures* series, from 2015, along with new works that delve further into the aesthetics and ideas explored in that earlier series. Rodriguez will give a walkthrough of the exhibition on Friday, September 1 at 4pm, with a reception to follow, from 5 to 9pm.

Rodriguez's large scale, hyper-realistic drawings are created with ball point pen and colored pencil on paper, as well as acrylic inks on canvas. Works from the artist's earlier series feature indeterminate architectural structures that are overrun by an encroaching landscape, and two new works from the artist's recent residency at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art in Omaha, Nebraska, take this aesthetic further. The imagery in much of the artist's body of work is appropriated from both real and fictional sources, as well as being loosely created from memory. The works conjure a mood of both familiarity and disquiet, quietly interacting with our own sense of place and memory.

While heavily inspired by social issues, specifically the economic crisis of his home Puerto Rico that has unfolded over the past eleven years, the artist claims that the works are not a direct view of the island, but make subtle references to "our history, specifically in the context of being in the Greater Antilles, being Caribbean, but being part of the United States at the same time." He goes on to say that his practice "not a reflection of our history, but there are certain historical elements you may find in it."

This focus on landscape and "ruin," as it relates to the built environment, is a perfect counterpoint to the theory of *Third Generation Cities*, a theory espoused by the Finnish architect and theorist Marco Casagrande. Rodriguez cites this post-industrial idea of reclaiming of the industrial city by nature, as an influence. This, paired with the artist's interest in the historical context of Puerto Rico, including its current economic crisis, coalesce in Rodriguez' works.

Rodriguez lives and works in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from the Visual Arts University of Sacred Heart in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and his Master of Fine Arts from the Kent Institute of Art and Design in Kent, England.

Among his most recent solo exhibitions are *Greetings From the Abandoned Land*, David Castillo Gallery, Miami (2017), *Reminiscent of Time Passed*, Savannah College of Art and Design Museum of Art (2016), *Diorama* at the Galeria Sagrado Corazon, San Juan, Puerto Rico (2015), *Landview* at the Walter Otero Contemporary Art, Miami (2014), and *Fallout* at the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico (2013).

Rodriguez has held a number of residencies in recent years, most recently at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, in Omaha, Nebraska, and Long Road Projects in Jacksonville, Florida, as well as the International Studio and Curatorial Program in New York. Recently, his art was featured in Occupy Museum's project for the 2017 Whitney Biennial, which explored Puerto Rico's financial

debt crisis. His work is featured in institutional collections at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico, and the Museo de Arte Contemporaneo de Castilla y Leon, Spain (MUSAC).

For further information on the exhibition and related programs, please visit the website at [www.flagler.edu/crispellert](http://www.flagler.edu/crispellert), or contact Julie Dickover at 904-826-8530 or [crispellert@flagler.edu](mailto:crispellert@flagler.edu). The museum's hours are Monday through Friday, 10 am to 4 pm, and Saturday, 12 to 4pm.