

Misleidys Francisca Castillo Pedroso  
*Untitled*, 2014  
Tempera and watercolor on paper  
39 x 20.25 in. (99 x 51.4 cm)

## Misleidys Francisca Castillo Pedroso: *Musculatura Viva*

April 19–May 31, 2015

Opening reception: Sunday, April 19, 2015 from 6–8 PM

The family is unsure of the exact date, but a few years ago, Misleidys Francisca Castillo Pedroso began painting muscular male figures, in various states of undress, on construction paper. After cutting the figures out, she would install them methodically all over the apartment, using precisely cut pieces of packing tape, spaced evenly around the figures' edge. Some of the men were a few inches tall while others approached eight feet, stretching from floor to ceiling. Then came the body parts—severed hands, feet, and heads floating free. One day, she started painting faces and bodies with cut-away views that revealed brightly colored abstract tissue and organs. Recently, she began painting female figures with bikini outfits, and groupings of heads that are joined together depicting generations, twins, families, or some other relationship. Her work is constantly evolving.

Misleidys Francisca Castillo Pedroso was born in Güines, a small town near Havana, Cuba, on September 28, 1985. The youngest of two children, Pedroso has been deaf since birth and does not speak. She communicates with her immediate family through a series of rudimentary signs, but those exchanges are limited to her most basic needs and emotional states. She spends most of her time at the apartment in the company of her family.

Politically, economically, and socially, Cuba has been isolated for decades. As a result, Misleidys has experienced a kind of double isolation and produced an *oeuvre* that is almost entirely influenced by her internal state, the confines of the family's apartment, and the social contact she has within its walls. No one knows why Misleidys began painting or her perception of the work she is producing, but her mother has occasionally observed her daughter standing in front of the drawings, looking at them and gesturing as if she were speaking to them. Misleidys looks at her paintings in the eyes, as though she recognizes them—as one recognizes a friend or someone they have known in this world.

Perhaps they are protective beings that she produces to watch over the life of her small family, or playmates with whom she can converse when others are not around. Maybe they are manifestations of less innocent fantasies. Whatever the true nature of this work may be, Misleidys is clearly breathing life into her figures, creating beings that exist in the space between our world and her own.

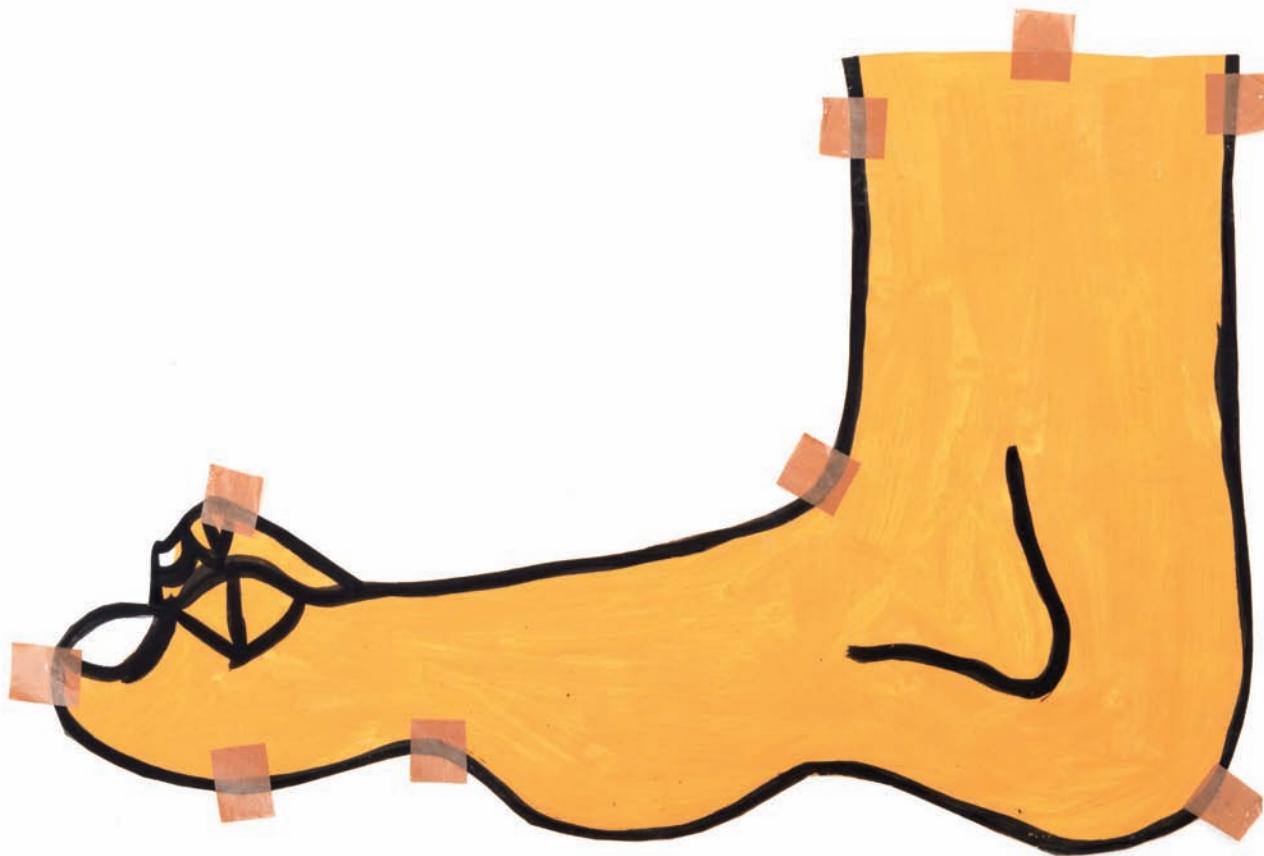
—Phillip March Jones, Director

95 rivington street  
new york, ny 10002  
+ 1 917 525 5939  
contactnyc@christianberst.com

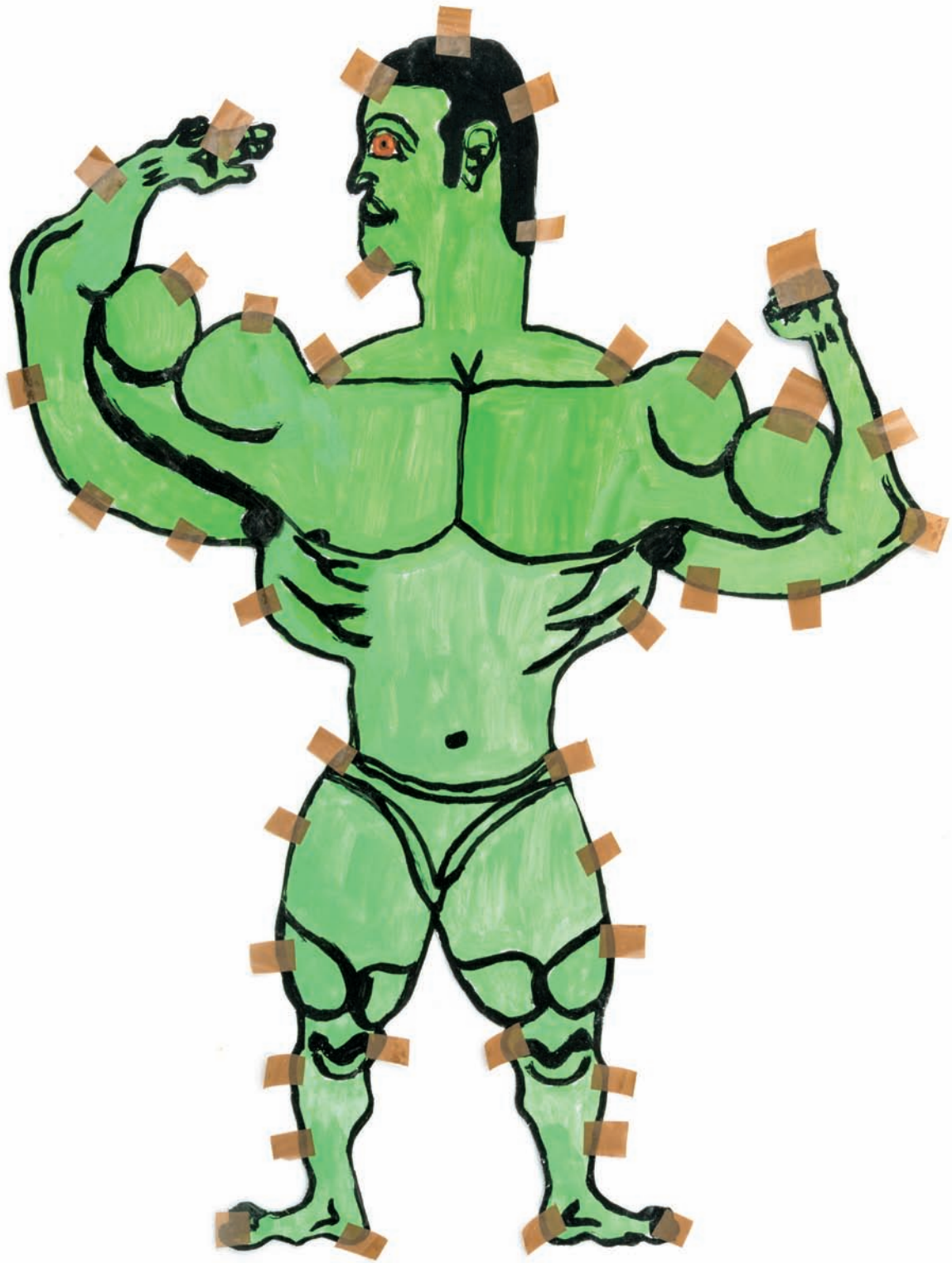
[www.christianberst.com](http://www.christianberst.com)

3-5, passage des gravilliers  
75003 paris  
+33 (0) 1 53 33 01 70  
contact@christianberst.com

*Art brut is an expression of individual mythology, conducted outside the realms of mainstream culture by people who exist in society's constructed alterity, and returns us to the metaphysics of art where the creative impulse attempts to elucidate the mystery of being in the world.*



Misleidys Francisca Castillo Pedroso  
*Untitled*, 2014  
Tempera and watercolor on paper  
12 x 19 in. (30.4 x 48.3 cm)



Misleidys Francisca Castillo Pedroso  
*Untitled*, 2014  
Tempera and watercolor on paper  
20 x 16 in. (50.8 x 40.6 cm)



Installation view, Misleidy's apartment (Havana, Cuba), circa 2014



Installation view, Misleidy's apartment (Havana, Cuba), circa 2014



Damián Valdés Dilla  
*Untitled (detail)*, 2014  
Ballpoint pen and graphite on paper  
11.75 x 36.8 in. (29.9 x 93.7 cm)

## Riera Studio: Art Brut Project

April 19–May 31, 2015

Opening reception: Sunday, April 19, 2015 from 6–8 PM

The Riera Studio: Art Brut Project, located in Havana's Cerro neighborhood, is an exhibition space, publisher, studio, and outreach organization devoted to supporting creators of art brut. The brainchild of artist Samuel Riera, the center seeks out Cuban artists working in the field, provides studio space and materials, and displays their works in exhibitions, publications, and documentary films. Cuba has many art therapy programs aimed at providing attention and services to people with psychological or physical disabilities, but Art Brut Project takes a decidedly different approach. Instead of therapy, Riera and his colleagues provide a framework within which their artists can develop and thrive according to their individual needs and desires.

This exhibition is an introduction to several of the project's artists and includes works by: Damián Valdés Dilla, Marcos Antonio Guerrero Herrera, Carlos Javier García Huergo, Josvedy Jove Junco, Guillermo Rigoberto Casola Marcos, Roberto O'Farrill Multan, and Boris Santamaría.

95 rivington street  
new york, ny 10002  
+ 1 917 525 5939  
[contactnyc@christianberst.com](mailto:contactnyc@christianberst.com)

[www.christianberst.com](http://www.christianberst.com)

3-5, passage des gravilliers  
75003 paris  
+33 (0) 1 53 33 01 70  
[contact@christianberst.com](mailto:contact@christianberst.com)

---

*Workshop at Christian Berst is devoted to the exhibition of contemporary artists engaged with the works or ideas present in the gallery's program, recent discoveries or immersive installations.*