



# XAVIER CORTADA

FEATURED WORKS AND PROJECTS



ma





## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Xavier Cortada is an artist, professor of practice at the University of Miami Department of Art and Art History (with secondary appointments in the University's Miller School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics and School of Law), and artist-in-residence at Pinecrest Gardens, where his studio and socially engaged art practice are based.

Using art's elasticity to engage others, Cortada educates and inspires community members to work and learn together to solve our community's problems. The crux of Cortada's work finds itself rooted in a deep conceptual engagement of his participants. Particularly environmentally focused, the work Cortada develops is intended to generate awareness and action towards issues of global climate change and social justice. Through the power of art, Cortada believes we can cross social and cultural boundaries to create change so that future generations thrive.

Over the past three decades, the Cuban-American artist has created art at the North and South Poles and across 6 continents, including more than 150 public artworks, installations, collaborative murals and socially engaged projects. These include peace murals in Cyprus and Northern Ireland, child welfare murals in Bolivia and Panama, AIDS murals in Switzerland and South Africa, juvenile justice murals and projects in Miami and Philadelphia, and eco-art projects in Taiwan, Hawaii, and Holland.

Cortada has been commissioned to create artworks for CERN, the White House, the World Bank, Florida Turnpike, the Museum of Florida History, the State of Florida Department of State, Miami-Dade County Hall, Miami City Hall and various government centers and housing sites across South Florida. His works are also in the permanent collections of the Perez Art Museum Miami, the NSU Museum of Art, the Whatcom Museum, the MDC Museum of Art and Design, and the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum.

The artist has served as a cultural leader at the local, state, and regional level: He served for 15 years on the Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs Council - his last two, 2018-2020, as Chairman. He also served on the Florida Arts Council from 2008 to 2012 - his last two years as Vice-Chair, and on the board of South Arts from 2016 to 2019.

Cortada was born in Albany, New York. The son of Cuban exiles, he grew up in Miami from the age of three. The artist holds three degrees from the University of Miami: Bachelor of Arts, College of Arts and Sciences (1986), Master of Public Administration, Miami Herbert Business School (1991), and Juris Doctor, School of Law (1991).

*In 2008, as a New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) sponsored artist, Cortada planted a green flag at the North Pole to reclaim it for nature and launch an eco-art reforestation effort.*



Xavier Cortada, "Longitudinal Installation," ritualistic performance with 24 black shoes in a circle at the South Pole, 2007.



Xavier Cortada, "astrid," Ice Paintings: Antarctic Sea Ice series, Sea ice from the Antarctica's Ross Sea, sediment from Antarctica's Dry Valleys and mixed media on paper, 12" x 9," 2007 (Created onsite at McMurdo Station, Ross Island, Antarctica. Permanent collection of the Whatcom Museum in Bellingham).

North Pole (90N) works:

- "Longitudinal Installation," 2008
- "Native Flags," 2008
- "Endangered World," 2008
- "DRAWROF," 2008
- "North Pole Dinner Party," 2008

South Pole (90S) works:

- "Longitudinal Installation," 2007
- "Endangered World," 2007
- "150,000-year Journey," performance, 2007
- "The Markers," 2007

Other polar works:

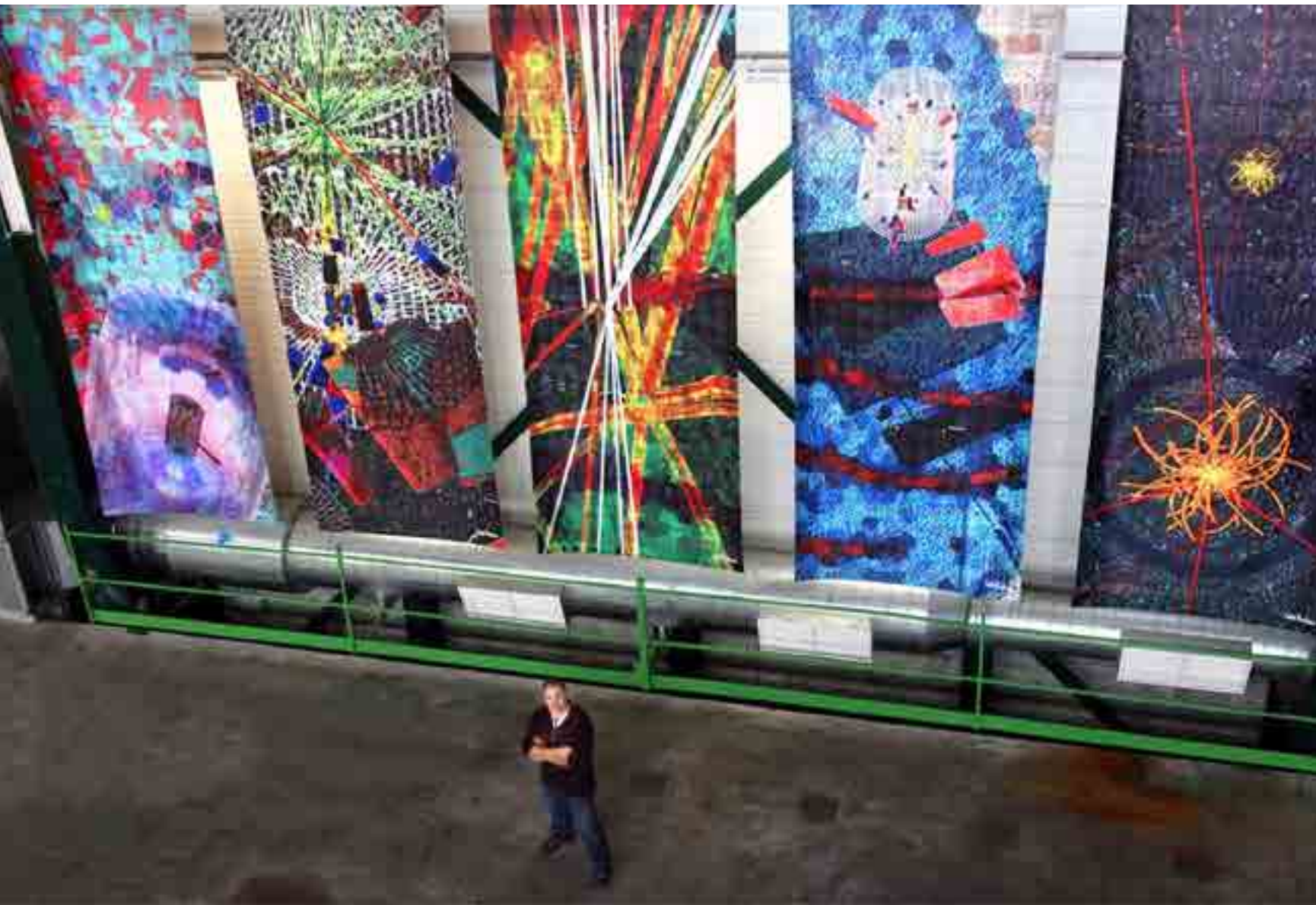
- "Antarctic Ice Paintings," 12" x 9", Antarctic ice, sediment from Antarctica's McMurdo Dry Valleys and mixed media on paper, 2007
- "Shackleton in the South Pole," 24" x 18", mixed media on canvas, 2007 (Amundsen-Scott Station, South Pole, Antarctica)
- "Why did you come to Antarctica?" 48" x 96", mixed media on canvas collaborative message mural, 2007 (McMurdo Station, Ross Island, Antarctica)
- "Arctic Ice Paintings," 12" x 9", Ice from North Pole and mixed media on paper, 2008

## NORTH AND SOUTH POLES

Cortada is the only artist to create installations at both the Earth's poles to generate awareness about global climate change at every point in between. In 2007, as a National Science Foundation (NSF) Antarctic Artists and Writers Program Fellow, the artist used the moving ice sheet beneath the South Pole as an instrument to mark time; the art piece will be completed in 150,000 years. In 2008, as a New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) sponsored-artist he planted a green flag at the North Pole to reclaim it for nature and launch an eco-art reforestation effort.

Cortada performed the "Longitudinal Installation" at both poles. As he stood in each of their respective longitudes, Cortada recited quotes from individuals impacted by climate change across 24 time zones. Likewise, through "Endangered World," Cortada called attention to likely victims of the planet's Sixth Mass Extinction at each pole. His Antarctic Ice Paintings – made with melted Antarctic ice – are a precursor of the horrors to come in a future with rising seas.





Cortada's banners celebrating the discovery of the Higgs boson are on permanent display at the European Organization for Nuclear Research's (CERN) CMS, Point 5 platform in Cessy, France where it was discovered.

Cortada met His Holiness Pope John Paul II during the Vatican's Jubilee Day for Artists.

Cortada's "Endangered World: Life Wall" is located near the largest neolithic gravesite at the Hunebed Center in Borger, the Netherlands.

## INTERNATIONAL

Cortada has engaged communities in art-making across six continents and both the North and South Poles. Many of these international exhibitions, presentations, and/or participatory art projects were organized through the U.S. embassies in Finland, Mauritius, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Portugal, Northern Ireland, Bolivia, Colombia, Honduras, Guatemala, Spain, and Cyprus.

In recognition of his international service, Cortada was presented the Millennium International Volunteer Award, a United States Department of State/USA Today national award recognizing his collaborative mural work at the international level.

### Featured international works and projects:

- "HELLO," a participatory art project at the United Nations Climate Conference (COP26), Glasgow, Scotland, 2021
- "The Art of Empathy in a Global Climate Crisis," Hemispheric University Consortium (HUC), Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ), and University of Miami, virtual, 2021
- "Letters to the Future" performance, Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) 2020 International Conference: Education Beyond the Human, Keynote Address Speaker and Artist-in-Residence, 2020
- "In Search of Higgs Boson," digital art, CERN, Switzerland & France, 2013
- "Art@CMS" touring exhibition: Miami Beach, Cessy, Vienna, Naples, Valencia, and Geneva, 2013
- "BLOOM," participatory art installation, Kaohsiung International Container Art Festival, Kaohsiung Museum, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, 2011
- "Body & Sold," performance, International Youth Arts Festival, London, United Kingdom, and the Kennedy Center, Washington D.C., 2011
- Exhibition of mangrove paintings, Art in Embassies program (Malabo, Equatorial Guinea), 2010
- "Endangered World: Life Wall," near the Netherlands' largest neolithic gravesite at the Hunebed Center, Borger, Holland, 2009
- "Genetic Markers," Quebec, Canada, 2009
- New York Foundation for the Arts sponsored artist, 2008
- National Science Foundation Antarctic Artists and Writers fellowship, 2007
- Envisioning Change exhibition, Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, Norway, BOZAR Center for Fine Arts in Brussels, Belgium, Monaco Ministry of Culture, and Field Museum in Chicago, 2007
- Jubilee Day for Artists selected the artist to meet His Holiness John Paul II, 2000
- "Children's Friendship Project for Northern Ireland," collaborative mural, in the permanent collection of the Northern Ireland Minister of Culture, Belfast, Northern Ireland, 2000
- "Breaking the Silence," collaborative mural, 13th International AIDS Conference, Durban, South Africa, 2000
- "Listen to the Children of the Green Island," collaborative mural, an International Earth Day project sponsored by the United States Embassy with hearing impaired Turkish and Greek Cypriot youth, Nicosia, Cyprus, 2000
- "Healthy Women, Healthy World," collaborative mural, Global Health Council's 27th Annual Conference: A Century of Health for the Children, 2000
- "Compartiendo con Panama," painting series and collaborative mural sponsored by La Cruz Blanca Panamena, Florida Volunteer Corps (FAVA/CA) and Regis House, Panama, 1999
- "Bridging the Gap," collaborative mural, 12th International AIDS Conference, Geneva, Switzerland, 1997
- "Compartiendo con Bolivia," exhibition and collaborative mural sponsored by Arts America and U.S. Embassy, Museo Tambo Quirquincho, La Paz, Bolivia, 1997





In 2008, prior to Cortada's travel to the North Pole to launch the "Native Flags" project, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen delivered a Native Flag to every one of her colleagues in Congress and asked them to plant the project's green flag and native tree in their respective districts across the country.



Cortada was featured in *Futurescape Miami: Skyline to Shoreline*, a public presentation by the Facebook Art Department and Facebook Analog Research Lab, as part of UNTITLED, ART Fair's Monuments Program during Art Basel Miami Beach 2019.

Featured national works and projects:

## UNITED STATES

Cortada has collaborated with various national institutions and leaders in socially engaged art projects, exhibitions, and other collaborations including the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), the White House Conference on Minority Homeownership, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the National Institute of Health's Offices of Research on Women's Health and Research on Minority Health, First Lady Laura Bush, and more.

For his 15 years of work creatively engaging fellow Miami-Dade County residents in learning about, conserving and restoring mangrove forests, Cortada was granted a 2021 National Wetlands Award by the Environmental Law Institute.

- *Painting Constitutional Law: Xavier Cortada's Images of Constitutional Rights*, a book about Xavier Cortada's "May It Please the Court" painting series, 2021
- Cortada received the Environmental Law Institute's 2021 National Wetlands Award
- "North Pole Dinner Party," performance, *Futurescape Miami: Skyline to Shoreline* presented by the Facebook Art Department and Facebook Analog Research Lab as part of UNTITLED, ART Fair's Monuments Program, Art Basel, Miami Beach, 2019
- "In Search of Higgs boson," exhibited at Fermilab, America's premier national laboratory for particle physics and accelerator research, 2013
- National Weather Center Biennial exhibition, Oklahoma City, OK, 2015
- "Flower Power," exhibition at the Oldest House and Garden Museum as part of ONE RACE THE HUMAN RACE/UNA RAZA, LA RAZA HUMANA, Key West, FL, 2014
- "Astrid" exhibited at *Vanishing Ice: Alpine and Polar Landscapes in Art 1775-2012*, Whatcom Museum, Bellingham, Washington, 2013
- Artist-in-Residence at Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, New Hampshire White Mountains, 2012-present
- "Wind Words," performance, White Mountain National Forest, New Hampshire, 2012
- "Ancestral Journeys" exhibited at Biennial of the Americas, Denver, Colorado, 2010

- Exhibition at SCOPE Art Fair Miami Hardcore Art Contemporary Space, Miami, Florida, 2010
- "Sequentia," performance and solo exhibition, Frost Art Museum, 2010
- "The Coral Eco-art Project," collaborative mural, ECHO (Education through Cultural and Historic Organizations) artist-in-residence, Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawai'i, 2010
- "Native Flags" presented to all members of Congress, 2008
- "Protecting America's Children: A National Message Mural," commissioned by Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) and unveiled at the IDEA Charter School in Washington D.C., 2005
- "Hunger Exists Here," collaborative message mural created with Congressional Hunger Center, Washington D.C., 2005
- "World Bank Mural: Dreaming of a World Free of Poverty," 2003
- VERB Campaign woodcuts and mural for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2003
- Keynote address at the Regional Hispanic/Latino Health and Human Services Conference, Chicago, Illinois, 2003
- Keynote address and unveiling of "Familia Unida" at the Heartland Latino Leadership Conference, Omaha, Nebraska, 2002

- "Weaving of the Family Tapestry," message mural, 60th American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) Annual Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2002
- "Stepping into the American Dream," official mural of the White House Conference on Minority Homeownership, 2002
- "Sharing the American Spirit," official mural of the Points of Light Foundation Annual Conference, 2002
- Collaborative mural during the Governors' Spouses Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free National Conference, Washington D.C., 2000
- "In remembrance of stories untold and the healing yet to come," CDC (Center for Disease Control) Center for Injury and Violence Prevention National Sexual Violence Prevention Conference, Dallas Texas, 2000
- "America's Millennium Canvas: Counties, Corporations, and Communities Working Together," message mural, National Association of Counties, 2000
- "MADD National Youth Summit Mural," unveiled at the U.S. Capitol, 1997
- "Hasta Cuando," juvenile justice mural, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1996
- "Hand in Hand," message mural, Central Rockies Prevention Project in Leadville, Colorado, 1995



In 2018, Creative Pinellas presented Xavier Cortada's "90N" exhibition to commemorate the 10th anniversary of his trip via a Russian icebreaker to the North Pole. The solo exhibition in Largo, FL featured Cortada's installations at the Arctic and works inspired by the project including his "Endangered World" drawings of 180 endangered species.



## FLORIDA

Cortada's works permanently hang at the entrances of the Museum of Florida History and the State of Florida Department of State. He's also implemented various socially engaged art projects across the state that provide shared learning opportunities to foster a greater connection to the arts and environment.

Since 2015, Cortada has collaborated with the Florida Coastal Everglades Long Term Ecological Research team to develop works depicting the glass shells of diatoms preserved in sedimentary core samples that are studied by scientists to grow our understanding of sea level rise in South Florida.

In 2013, Cortada partnered with the Department of State, the Museum of Florida History, local history museums, libraries and state universities across Florida to launch "FLOR500," a participatory art, nature, and history project that commemorated Florida's quincentennial. He worked with scientists to select 500 flowers that were painted by 500 artists and worked with historians to select 500 individuals who shaped Florida's history. Volunteers planted a wildflower garden dedicated to each of the 500 historic figures.

In 2015, Cortada created permanent art installations in three turnpike plazas, making them cultural destinations in and of themselves. Each focused on a different aspect of the sunshine state's natural beauty: endangered animals (Ft. Drum Plaza), sunshine (Turkey Lake Plaza), and wildflowers (West Palm Beach Plaza).

In 2009, Cortada created one of a kind digital paintings for the Florida Botanical Gardens in Largo, FL. Commissioned by the Pinellas County Cultural Affairs Department's Public Art and Design Program, the artworks celebrate the planting of 750 native trees in the county through Native Flags.



Florida Governor Charlie Crist and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger accept "Antarctic Ice Paintings" from artist Xavier Cortada at the Florida Summit on Global Climate Change in Miami on July 13, 2007.



Florida Turnpike travelers entering Ft. Drum Plaza are greeted by Cortada's 20' mural of a Florida Panther.

### Featured state works and projects:

- "90N: North Pole Installations" and "Florida Is," exhibition at Creative Pinellas, Largo, Florida, 2018
- "Florida is... Nature," public art at West Palm Beach, Ft. Drum, and Turkey Lake Plaza, commissioned by the Florida Turnpike, 2015
- Rising Waters Confab, Robert Rauschenberg Residency, Captiva, Florida, 2015
- "5 Actions to Stop Rising Seas," performance, premiered during CLIMA solo exhibit in Hialeah, Florida during COP21 in Paris, 2015
- "FCE LTER Diatoms," an art-science collaboration with Florida Coastal Everglades Long Term Ecological Research team, 2015-2018
- "Release to Tide," Sanibel Capitva Conservation Foundation, 2015
- "Moving Water," ceramic tile mural and performance, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 2015
- "FLOR500," socially engaged art project in partnership with the Department of State, the Museum of Florida History, local history museums, libraries, and state universities across Florida, 2013
- "Reaching Out to Cancer Kids" murals, American Cancer Society, 2001-2012
- "Five Flags/Florida," painting for the Florida Heritage Month poster, Tallahassee, Florida, 2006 (In permanent collection of Department of State, State of Florida, Tallahassee, FL)
- "May It Please the Court," solo exhibition at Florida Supreme Court, 2004
- "The Journey" and "Florida Mangrove" unveiled during Governor Jeb Bush's State of Florida Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, 2003 (In the permanent collection of Museum of Florida History, Tallahassee, FL)





Cortada's 2004 "Painted Cuban Plane" features his painting on the actual Russian Antonov-2 Colt airplane that brought a family from Cuba to the United States and was confiscated from the Cuban government by U.S. Marshalls. Cortada also presented 45 pieces of luggage numbered sequentially from 1959 to 2004, representing each year the Cuban community has been in exile. Each piece included letters from exiles describing what they left behind in Cuba and what they found when they arrived here.

## MIAMI-DADE

"For Cortada, art has the profound ability to bring public awareness to pressing social, environmental, and political issues. His activist art-making includes painted and collaged murals, easel painting, mosaics, site-specific installations, performance, textiles and banners, and interventions in the environment. In this introductory essay to *Painting Constitutional Law*, I consider the diverse range of Cortada's work, including murals such as *Bridging the Gap*; *Stepping into the American Dream*; and *Protecting America's Children: A National Message Mural*. I give sustained attention to each of the ten easel paintings that make up the *May It Please the Court* series, which are the subject of this volume. Lastly, I consider Cortada's science-art projects, including the environmental community-sourced *Reclamation Project* and the science-art installations *The Markers (South Pole)* and *Ancestral Journeys*. In this work, Cortada asserts the power of art to build community and make social connections."

Renée D. Ater, "Xavier Cortada: Socially Engaged Activist Artist," *Painting Constitutional Law: Xavier Cortada's Images of Constitutional Rights*, 2021.



In 2004, Cortada led 800 volunteers in painting the "Miami Mangrove Forest," a metaphoric reforestation of downtown Miami where the volunteers painted Cortada's images of mangrove seedlings on dozens of columns beneath I-95.



Cortada's 2018 "Underwater HOA" invited neighbors to map the topography of their community to help visualize their vulnerability to sea level rise.



In 2021, Cortada created the "How We Thrive" collaborative message mural as part of Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava's Thrive305 campaign and unveiled it with her at County Hall.

### Featured local works and projects:

- "How We Thrive," collaborative message mural, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava's Thrive305 campaign, County Hall, Miami, Florida, 2021
- University of Miami COVID-19 Rapid Response grant awardee for "Miami Corona Project," 2021
- "Plan(T)," eco-art project implemented at every Miami-Dade County public library branch, dozens of local schools, the University of Miami, the Frost Science Museum, and various businesses, 2019
- "Underwater HOA," socially engaged art, Village of Palmetto Bay, 2018
- "Shit Show," collaborative art performance with Miami Waterkeeper and the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, 2018
- "Pancho's Wake," performance, Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, 2014
- "Yellow Bus," collaborative mural, Youth MOVE Through the Arts and Federation of Families, unveiled at the Youth and Families Summit, 2013
- "80.15W," carbon paper drawings, in the permanent collection of Nova Southeastern University Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, 2010
- "Ancestral Journeys," performance and hand-painted ceramic plates, Deering Estate, 2010
- "Native Flags," socially engaged eco-art project implemented at every local public school annually, 2009-present
- "Incorporation Palm," socially engaged art, 2008
- "Mangroves," Coconut Grove Arts Festival Poster, 2008
- "Reclamation Project," Miami Science Museum, 2007-present
- "Absence of Place," 180 present-day photographs of places in Miami that no longer exist, in the permanent collection of the Pérez Art Museum Miami, 2006
- "CASA," art program with National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Association, Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) & Voices For Children Foundation, 2005
- "Compartiendo," long-term exhibition in the Miami-Dade County Drug Court Richard E. Gerstein Justice Building, 2004-2021
- "Miami Mangrove Forest," a metaphoric reforestation of downtown Miami, 2004
- "Painted Cuban Plane and Freedom Luggage Installation," 2004
- "Coexistence," collaborative mural, NCCJ Leadership Seminar: From Coexistence to Community, 2003
- "The Voice Project," collaborative mural, Jackson Memorial Hospital's Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Program, commissioned by the University of Miami School of Law Children and Youth Law Clinic, funded by Miami-Dade Department of Cultural Affairs, 2003
- "Trapped," collaborative mural, Jackson Memorial Hospital's Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Program, 2002
- "History of Disabilities," collaborative mural, University of Miami Mailman Center for Child Development, 2001
- "ArtCARE: Outreach to Juveniles Being Tried as Adults," socially engaged art project, Miami-Dade Art in Public Places and the Office of the Public Defender, 2001
- "convictim," collaborative mural with the participation of juvenile offenders aged 14 - 18 who were incarcerated at Miami's Turner Guilford Knight Corrections Facility, 2001
- "Miami Riverside Garden," murals, Miami River's Flagler Bridge, 2001
- "Hues of Love," message mural with early-stage Alzheimer's patients, family members, and caretakers, 2001
- "We're in the Same Boat," message mural with stories, drawings, photos and poems by the senior citizens of both Hispanic and Haitian communities in Miami, Hands On Miami, Miami Coral Park Senior High School students, the Haitian American Foundation, and the Little Havana Activities and Nutrition Center, 2001
- "Front Porch Conversations," collaborative mural, Governor Jeb Bush and Little Havana as a Front Porch Initiative community, 2001
- "The Art of Inclusion," collaborative mural in collaboration with the University of Miami Mailman Center Debbie School for Children and their families, 2000
- "Master-Peace 2000," ten murals with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, exhibited at the Historical Museum of South Florida, 2000
- "Cries of Anguish: Violence in the Home," mural for UM Mailman Center Heroes Program, sponsored by Regis House, Green Street Partners, and the University of Miami School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Mailman Center for Child Development, 2000
- "Diversity Mural," National Diversity Forum—Creating Partnerships to Save Lives, sponsored by Department of Transportation, NHSTA and MADD, 1999
- "PATH (Public Art Transforming Housing)," 1999
- "Millennium Mural," collaborative mural, Miami-Dade Housing Department and the Miami-Dade Police Department, 1999
- "Hope," collaborative mural with Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, 1996



# PUBLIC ART

Cortada's site-specific public art ranges from free-standing and suspended sculptures, ceramic tile murals, mosaics, paintings, and large-scale digital works.

Featured public artworks include:

- 2021 *Grounded (Roots)*, Liberty Square, Miami-Dade Art in Public Places, Miami, FL
- 2021 *Flower Force*, Palmetto Bay Art in Public Places, Village of Palmetto Bay, FL
- 2020 *Heron and Ibises*, Village Hall, Village of Palmetto Bay, FL
- 2020 *El Manglar and Miami Mangrove Forest*, Palmetto Bay Art in Public Places, Village of Palmetto Bay, FL
- 2019 *Pinecrest Mangrove Forest*, Pinecrest Gardens, Pinecrest, FL
- 2019 *A Pelican's Path*, Martin Fine Plaza, Miami-Dade Housing Authority, Miami, FL
- 2018 *Four Seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter*, University of Miami Miami Herbert Business School, Coral Gables, FL
- 2018 *Marcia Gardens Mangroves*, Marcia Gardens, Miami-Dade Housing Authority, Miami, FL
- 2018 *Diatom Court*, Pinecrest Gardens, Pinecrest, FL
- 2017 *Longitudinal Installation*, Pinecrest Gardens, Pinecrest, FL
- 2017 *Diatom Fountain*, Smathers Plaza, Miami-Dade Housing Authority, Miami, FL
- 2016 *Diatom Mural*, Jack Orr Plaza, Miami-Dade Housing Authority, Miami, FL
- 2016 *Sunburst Woodstorks*, Stirrup Plaza 2, Miami-Dade Housing Authority, Miami, FL
- 2015 *(Rededication/Replica of 1999 mosaic) Commemorating 100 Years of Juvenile Justice*, Miami-Dade Children's Courthouse, Miami-Dade Art in Public Places, Miami, FL
- 2015 *Just Below the Surface: 1915 (Founding of Miami Beach)*, Florida Coastal Everglades Long-Term Ecological Research, Miami Beach, FL
- 2014 *Wading Birds and Heron*, Stirrup Plaza 1, Miami-Dade Housing Authority, Miami, FL
- 2014 *Las Libelulas, Dragonflies on Blue, and Los Caballitos del Diabolo*, Pineiro Apartments, Miami-Dade Housing Authority, Miami, FL
- 2014 *Julia's Blossoms, Flor, Orange Blossoms, and 500*, Collins Park Apartments, Miami-Dade Housing Authority, Miami, FL
- 2014 *Pelican Path*, Port Everglades Terminal 4, Broward County Public Art and Design Program, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- 2013 *Starfish Shuffle: Digital Tapestry, Current, Sandbar, Sand, Seashore, Seagrass 1, Seagrass 2*, Port Everglades Terminal 2, Broward County Public Art and Design Program, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- 2013 *Flight of the Ibis*, University of Miami Shalala Student Activities Center, Coral Gables, FL
- 2013 *Mangrove Cove, Seedlings, Mangroves (On Blue), Raices, Entangled, and Roots, Dante Fascell Apartments*, Miami-Dade Housing Authority, Miami, FL
- 2013 *Sawfish, Horseshoe Crab March, Sea Star Light, Sea Stars, Night Swimming, and Octopus*, South Miami Plaza, Miami-Dade Housing Authority, Miami, FL
- 2013 *Flores de Cocuyos, Baile de las Mariposas, and Odonata*, Joe Moretti Apartments, Miami-Dade Housing Authority, Miami, FL
- 2012 *Splash!*, Miami Gardens Aquatic Center, Miami-Dade Art in Public Places, Miami Gardens, FL
- 2009 *Native Canopy*, Murray E. Nelson Government and Cultural Center, Key Largo, FL
- 2008 *Four Elements (at the Frost), Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum*, State of Florida Art in State Buildings Program, Tallahassee, FL
- 2008 *Plaza Allapattah, Plaza Roja, Plaza Azul, and Plaza Amarilla*, Curtis Park, Miami, FL
- 2007 *Conquistadores and Raices*, State of Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, FL
- 2007 *18 Mile Stretch*, Monroe County Art in Public Places North Key Largo Fire Station, Key Largo, FL
- 2005 *First Encounter: 1566 and The Incorporators: 1896*, City of Miami City Hall, Miami, FL
- 2004 *Our Community (is like a Mangrove Forest)*, Miami-Dade County Hall, Foyer to Commission Chambers, Miami, FL
- 2004 *Miami Mangrove Forest*, metaphorical reforestation of a mangrove forest across underpasses of I-95 throughout City of Miami, Miami, FL
- 2003 *Dreaming of a World Free of Poverty*, The World Bank, Washington, D.C.
- 2003 *The Journey & Florida Mangrove*, Museum of Natural History, Department of State, Tallahassee, FL
- 2002 *Stepping into the American Dream*, the official mural of the White House Conference on Minority Homeownership, Washington, D.C.
- 2001 *convictim*, collaborative art mural with the participation of juvenile offenders, Office of the Public Defender, 11th Judicial Circuit of Florida, Miami-Dade County Art in Public Places, Miami, FL
- 1999 *Commemorating 100 Years of Juvenile Justice*, Miami-Dade Juvenile Courthouse, Miami-Dade Art in Public Places, Miami, FL



Mangrove Cove



Flight of the Ibis



Our Community (is like a mangrove forest)



Flower Force



Diatom Fountain



## SELECTED RESIDENCIES

- **Antarctica** - Art in Antarctica (South Pole Installations), *National Science Foundation Antarctic Artists and Writers Program*, 2006-2007
- **North Pole** - 90N (North Pole) Installations, *New York Foundation for the Arts*, NYFA sponsored artist, 2008
- **The Netherlands** - Kunst- en natuurwandeling OverLeven, *Foundation Nature Art Drenthe (Stichting Natuurkunst Drenthe)*, Drenthe, the Netherlands, 2009
- **Canada** - Paths and Traces/Chemins et Tracés, *Fondation Derouin* - Symposium 2009, Les Jardins du Précambrien, Val-David, Quebec, Canada, 2009
- **Hawaii** - The Coral Art project, *Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, ECHO (Education through Cultural and Historic Organizations)*, Honolulu, Hawaii, 2010
- **Taiwan** - BLOOM at *Kaohsiung International Container Art Festival, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts*, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, 2011
- **Miami** - *Florida International University, Artist-in-Residence*, Miami, FL, 2011-2018
- **New England** - White Mountain Trail Mix, *White Mountain National Forest/Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire*, 2012 - present
- **Geneva** - Art for the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment at *CERN's Large Hadron Collider*, Geneva, Switzerland, 2013
- **Key West** - Flower Power: Cultivando / Flowers for Cuba, *The Studios Key West*, Key West, Florida, 2014
- **Captiva** - 5 Actions to Stop Rising Seas, *The Rauschenberg Residency: Rising Waters Confab*, Captiva, Florida, 2015
- **Oregon** - *H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest, Artist-in-Residence*, Willamette National Forest, (near) Blue Rivers, OR, 2016
- **Pincrest** - *Pincrest Gardens, Artist-in-Residence*, Miami, FL, 2017 - present

## PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

- PAMM (Pérez Art Museum Miami), Miami, FL
- NSU Museum of Art, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Whatcom Museum, Bellingham, WA
- Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum, Miami, FL
- MDC Museum of Art + Design, Miami, FL
- The World Bank, Washington, D.C.
- Department of State Art Collection, State of Florida, Tallahassee, FL

## MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

- Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach, FL
- Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, Boulder, CO
- BOZAR Center for Fine Arts, Brussels, Belgium
- Durban Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa
- El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso, TX
- El Taller Puertorriqueño, Philadelphia, PA
- Frost Art Museum, Miami, FL
- Frost Science Museum, Miami, FL
- Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Canada
- Historical Museum of Southern Florida, Miami, FL
- Kaohsiung Museum of Art, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
- MACLA, San Jose, CA
- Maryland Science Center, Baltimore, MD
- McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Ontario, Canada
- Miami Dade College Art & Design Museum, Miami, FL
- Mission San Luis, Tallahassee, FL
- Museo de las Americas, Denver, CO
- Museo Historico Regional, Santa Cruz, Bolivia
- Museo Tambo Quirquincho, La Paz, Bolivia
- Museum of Contemporary Art, Cusco, Peru
- Museum of Florida History, Tallahassee, FL
- Nobel Peace Center, Oslo, Norway
- Oldest House and Garden Museum, Key West, FL
- Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA
- Perez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL
- Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN
- Whatcom Museum, Bellingham, WA



Xavier Cortada, "80.15W," 17 endangered animal drawings on carbon paper, 2010 (permanent collection NSU Museum of Art, Ft. Lauderdale, FL).



Cortada performing "5 Actions to Stop Rising Seas: Freeze it!" at Rauschenberg Residency in 2015.



The grid of mangrove propagules at the Frost Science Museum (formerly Miami Science Museum), 2007.



## FEATURED PRESS

### FEATURED ARTICLES

- [T Agitprop: 12 Artists on Climate Change](#), by Zoë Lascaze, *New York Times*, *T Magazine*, August 22, 2018.
- [Art in the Anthropocene](#), by Alan C. Braddock and Renée Ater. Source: *American Art*, Vol. 28, No. 3 (Fall 2014), p. cover2. Published by: The University of Chicago Press on behalf of the *Smithsonian American Art Museum*.
- [When Science Meets Art](#), by the Editorial Staff at *COSMOS Magazine*. Published in *COSMOS* 77 – Summer 2018, April 25, 2018.
- [Global Warnings](#), by Suzaan Boettger, *Art in America*, Issue No. 6, pp. 154-161, 206-207, June/July 2008.
- *Miami Herald* Editorial Board Opinion, [Hey, Art Basel – we owe you one](#), 2015.
- [Xavier Cortada's Art: Inspired by Science, and Uniquely Miami](#), by Erin Marcus. Published in the *HUFFPOST Arts & Culture*, November 26, 2014.
- [Interactive Art About Climate Change in a City Where It Will Wreak Havoc](#), by Monica Uszerowicz, *Hyperallergic*, December 10, 2015.
- [Painting the Genome for the Public](#), By Xavier Cortada. Published in *Science*, Volume 331, Page 548, February 4, 2011.
- [Environmental Art](#). By Sam Bower. Published in *Animating Democracy*, 2012.
- [Arte al Dia, Art in Antarctica, Kunsthaus](#), Review by Milagros Bello, edition 119, page 119, July 2007.
- [Green Museum](#), by Allison Compton, *Public Art Review*, Issue 40, pp 52-55, Spring/Summer 2009.
- [Public Art Review](#), Volumes 7-9 – Page 135. Published by *Forecast*, 1995.
- [New "Pelican Path" artwork installed at Port Everglades](#), by Arlene Satchell, *Sun Sentinel*, June 16, 2015.

### FEATURED RADIO

- Nov 12, 2018 – **NPR | Here and Now**: [Miami Artist Repurposes Campaign Signs To Spark Conversation About Sea Level Rise](#)
- Nov 9, 2018 – **WLRN**: [What To Do With Those Political Yard Signs? This Artist Has An Idea. Linked To The Rising Sea](#)
- Oct 19, 2018 – **BBC | Cultural Front Line**: [Art Against Climate Change](#)
- Oct 2, 2018 – **WLRN**: [Pinecrest Is Getting An "Underwater Homeowners Association"](#)

### FEATURED VIDEO

- 2020 – ["The Road to Change: America's Climate Crisis" \(Underwater HOA\)](#), **CNN**
- 2019 – ["Homeowners group promotes climate change action" \(Underwater HOA\)](#), **Associated Press**
- 2015 – ["Cortada launches CLIMA exhibit during the Paris Climate Talks" \(CLIMA\)](#), **WSVN**
- 2013 – ["500 Flowers for Florida" \(FLOR500\)](#), **WPBT**
- 2012 – ["Art creates a splash at Miami Gardens Rec Complex" \(Splash\)](#), **CBS4**
- 2008 – [NBC News segment for Coconut Grove Arts Festival Poster Artist, Xavier Cortada \(Reclamation Project\)](#), **NBC6**



The New York Times



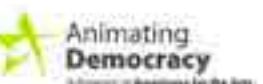
The Miami Herald

Sun Sentinel

HYPERALLERGIC



Public Art Review



THE SCIENCE OF EVERYTHING  
COSMOS



HUFFPOST ARTS & CULTURE

Art in America



# The New York Times

## 12 Artists On: Climate Change A dozen artistic responses to one of the greatest threats of our time.

By Zoë Lascaze Aug. 22, 2018

Human-induced climate change, which certain politicians deny and many of us choose to ignore, threatens the survival of every species on Earth. If emissions continue at their current rate, scientists anticipate widespread coastal land loss, agricultural and economic collapse, food and water shortages, frequent and severe natural disasters, and unprecedented refugee crises. For the third installment of our series *T Agitprop*, we asked 12 contemporary artists, including Alexis Rockman, Mel Chin, Erin Jane Nelson and the members of the collective *Dear Climate*, to contribute works, most of them new and created exclusively for *T*, in response to this global emergency. Here are their pieces and statements.



**XAVIER CORTADA**  
Born in Albany, N.Y., in 1964.

In response to South Florida's vulnerability to rising sea levels, the village of Pinecrest, Florida will encourage its 6,000 households to install an "Underwater HOA" yard sign (similar to the 18- by 24-inch "Home for Sale" yard signs used by realtors) on their front lawns during the first week of December. I numbered each yard sign from 0 to 17 feet (the municipality's land elevation range) to show how many feet of melted glacial water must rise before a particular property is underwater. The backdrops of the signs are watercolor paintings I made in Antarctica while a fellow with the National Science Foundation Antarctic Artists and Writers Program in 2006. These paintings were created using water from the very glaciers that threaten to melt and drown Miami.

By mapping the impending crisis, I make the invisible visible. Block by block, house by house, neighbor by neighbor, I want to make the future impact of sea level rise something impossible to ignore. By asking participants to join the newly chartered group Underwater HOA, I hope to engage my neighbors as problem solvers who will learn and work together now to better prepare themselves and their heirs for the chaos to come. Our inaugural meeting is scheduled to take place a month after the signs have come down, on January 9, 2019 at 7 p.m., at my studio in Pinecrest Gardens. We will elect officers and ratify the bylaws. One vote per household. Only individuals bringing picture IDs and proof of elevation will be allowed to vote.

Read the original article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/22/t-magazine/climate-change-art.html>



Xavier Cortada's "Underwater HOA, Marker 8," 2018, part of a site-specific, participatory art installation. Credit: Photo by Josh Liberman. Artwork photographed by Guido di Inganno. P. courtesy of the artist.





*"Xavier Cortada created a series of extensive installations on his Antarctic visit, focusing on the crucial element of time. The Florida native cast an ice replica of a Mangrove seedling that is very slowly making its way over 150,000 years to the coastline. In contrast, he marked the mere 50-year history of human presence at the South Pole with chronological flags stretching across the frozen land."*

- Lucy R. Lippard, curator, from "Weather Report" exhibition catalog for Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art

*FRONT COVER: Xavier Cortada, "Four Elements (at the Frost): Aer, Ignis, Aqua, Terra," sublimation dye on fabric, 40' x 10' each, 2008. Frost Art Museum, Miami, FL (Commissioned by the State of Florida Art in State Buildings).*

*BACK COVER: Xavier Cortada, "The Markers (South Pole)," 2007. National Science Foundation (NSF) Antarctic Artists and Writers Program.*



**CORTADA**

[www.cortada.com](http://www.cortada.com)  
[xavier@cortada.com](mailto:xavier@cortada.com)  
[@xcortada](https://twitter.com/xcortada)

© 2021 Xavier Cortada