

NEWS RELEASE
August 6, 2024

GENERATOR
USF CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM

**UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA**
College of The Arts
Institute for Research in Art
Contemporary Art Museum

Press Contact:

USF Contemporary Art Museum
Don Fuller - fuller@usf.edu

GENERATOR: USF Contemporary Art Museum presents
EDISON PEÑAFIEL: MARE MAGNVM
(A Floridian Odyssey/Una Odisea en la Florida)

On View August 24 - October 26, 2024 - Harbor Hall Gallery, USF St. Petersburg

(ST. PETERSBURG, FL – AUGUST 6, 2024) **GENERATOR: USF Contemporary Art Museum**, part of the Institute for Research in Art in the USF College of The Arts, is excited to announce the immersive installation ***EDISON PEÑAFIEL: MARE MAGNVM (A Floridian Odyssey/Una Odisea en la Florida)***.

Edison Peñafiel is an artist based in South Florida who migrated to the United States to leave the political and economic instability of his native country Ecuador. Peñafiel's immersive installations reflect the struggles faced by the marginalized and reveal the hidden workings of power structures.



Video still of Edison Peñafiel, *MARE MAGNVM*. © Edison Peñafiel.

An opening reception will be held on **Saturday, August 24** at the Harbor Hall gallery on the **USF St. Petersburg campus**. The event begins with an **11am artist's talk by Edison Peñafiel** in the Harbor Hall auditorium next to the gallery space.

MARE MAGNVM is a panoramic video installation featuring a stylized, monochromatic sea populated by 14 boats, each with its own unique collection of characters caught in a perpetual loop. Despite appearing larger than life, their boats are constructed of various found objects, including wood, oil drums, and tires, pointing to real-life scenes of migration across bodies of water.

The name *MARE MAGNVM* comes from the Latin for "Great Sea," the term the Romans used to describe the Mediterranean. The word "mare" has a complicated history, being associated with evil spirits and terrors in various cultures, including in Old English and Old Irish. Today, the waters of the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, along with other sites of mass migration, reflect an ongoing horror, as millions of migrants flee war, instability, and climate change.

MARE MAGNVM does not refer to a single migration event, but rather expands the viewers' experience to encompass the phenomenon as a whole. A panoramic artwork, *MARE MAGNVM* immerses viewers in the struggle of crossing borders, alerting them to a future in which rising waters will push unprecedented numbers of people away from the places they call home.

MARE MAGNVM was produced with the technical and creative support of MAD LABS and Immersiva.

GENERATOR VISITOR INFO: For questions email caminfo@usf.edu or call (813) 974-4133. **HOURS:** M-F noon-6pm and Sat noon-4pm. Closed Sun + USF Holidays (Sep. 2). **ADMISSION:** Exhibition and events are free and open to the public. **ADDRESS:** Harbor Hall, USF St. Petersburg - 1000 3rd St S, St. Petersburg, FL 33701 (Gallery entrance on South end of building) **PARKING:** GENERATOR visitor parking is available in lot 9 ([USFSP Parking Map](#)), south of Harbor Hall. Accessible parking is available in both lot 9 (south lot) and lot 10 (north lot). Wheelchair accessible entrance is on the north side. USF parking permits or payment by ParkMobile smartphone app are required. On street parking is also available on adjacent streets. **LINKTREE:** For all the latest visit <https://linktr.ee/irausf>.



Video still of Edison Peñafiel, *MARE MAGNVM*. © Edison Peñafiel.

RELATED EVENT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 11AM-2PM

EDISON PEÑAFIEL ARTIST TALK + OPENING RECEPTION

Harbor Hall Auditorium + Gallery, USF St. Petersburg

Join us Saturday morning at USF St. Petersburg’s Harbor Hall. Artist Edison Peñafiel will provide an artist talk at 11am in the Harbor Hall Auditorium with CAM Curator-at-Large Christian Viveros-Fauné. An opening reception follows until 2pm.

ABOUT EDISON PEÑAFIEL - Originally from Ecuador, Peñafiel moved to the United States in 2002. Since graduating from Florida International University’s Fine Arts program in 2016, he has concentrated his practice on numerous large-scale projects, site-specific immersive installations, and solo exhibitions. Notable exhibitions include “Barrio Alto” (2024, Coral Springs Museum of Art, Coral Springs, Florida), “Run, Run, Run Like the Wind” (2023, Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami, Florida), “MARE MAGNVM” (2021, Sabrina Amrani Gallery, Madrid, Spain, and MAD Arts, Dania Beach, FL), and “Ni Aquí, Ni Allá” as part of the Florida Prize in Contemporary Art exhibition (2019, Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, Florida). His work has been featured in numerous group exhibitions, including “Trienal Poli/gráfica: Bajo Presión” (2024, Antiguo Arsenal de La Armada, San Juan, Puerto Rico), “BIENALSUR: Punto de Fuga” (2021, Centro de Arte Universidad Nacional de la Plata, La Plata, Argentina), “Make America What America Must Become” (2020, Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans, Louisiana), and “Life During Wartime: Art in the Age of Coronavirus” (2020, USF Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa, Florida).

Peñafiel has received prestigious awards including the Florida Prize in Contemporary Art and the Knight Foundation Award (2019), the Ellies Creator Award (2021), two Individual Artist Project Awards from the State of Florida Division of Arts and Culture (2021 and 2023), and the Premio ARCO Comunidad de Madrid (2022). He has participated in art residencies including Anderson Ranch (2021, Snowmass, Colorado), Oolite Arts (2022, Miami Beach, Florida), and Mass MoCA (2022, North Adams, Massachusetts). His work is part of various collections, including Elsewhere Museum (2018, Greensboro, North Carolina), Oolite Arts (2022, Miami Beach, Florida), and Centro de Arte 2 de Mayo (2022, Madrid, Spain). Peñafiel’s work is represented by Sabrina Amrani Gallery, Madrid, Spain.

ABOUT GENERATOR - An expansion of the University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum, GENERATOR is an incubator of new ideas and a place for expanded artistic experimentation. Primarily focused on the moving image and time-based contemporary art, GENERATOR offers a new cultural dimension to St. Petersburg’s prominence as an arts destination while offering free public access to an inclusive space for creative exploration, research, and dialogue.

ABOUT THE USF COLLEGE OF THE ARTS - As the creative center of the University of South Florida, the College of The Arts provides an enriched, creative, and professional environment for tomorrow’s leaders in architecture, art, art history, music, theatre, dance, and design. The college embraces opportunities to embed new and existing arts programming in the rapidly growing regional communities and serves as an integral engine for socioeconomic progress through its research, advocacy, and engagement.

EDISON PEÑAFIEL: MARE MAGNVM (A Floridian Odyssey) is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. GENERATOR: USFCAM and its programs are supported by USF College of The Arts; USF St. Petersburg; the Lee and Victor Leavengood Endowment; and the St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership.



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