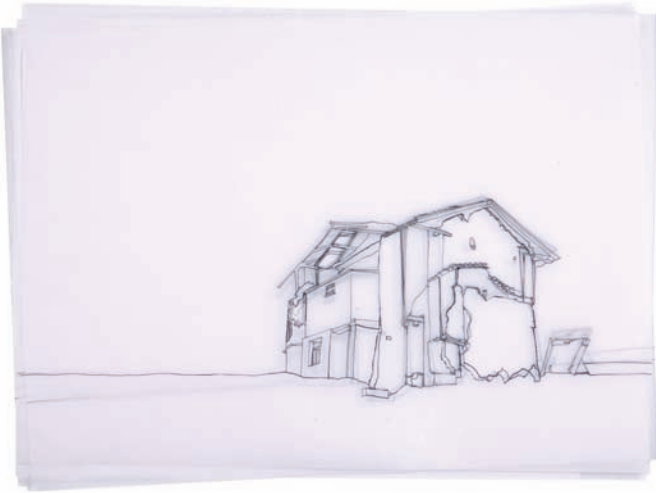


**molaa** ■ ■  
museum of latin american art

**MOLAA AWARDS** **08**  
AN INVITATIONAL JURIED ART COMPETITION & EXHIBITION



**Leyla Cárdenas** (Colombia, b. 1975)  
*Casa de Casas / House of Houses*, 2008  
sumi ink on parchment paper, 15 ¼ x 20 ¾ in.  
Gift of the artist and RJ Fine Arts, CT and d.e.n  
contemporary, Culver City, CA

## BEST OF SHOW:

The winner of Best in Show, Leyla Cárdenas from Bogotá, Colombia is an emerging artist on the international scene first earning a B.F.A from Los Andes University in Bogota and then an M.F.A degree at UCLA (2004) with a Colombian Colfuturo Scholarship and UCLA fellowship. Her recent solo and group exhibitions present installations, sculpture and works on paper that pursue themes of documenting and recycling architectonic, urban and rural structures and materials. For several installation pieces the artist collected pieces of debris, such as wood planks, paint chips and roof shingles, to present an investigation about what lies beneath the surface of the materials as well as what lies between their layers.

The award winning drawing, *Casa de Casas* (House of Houses), is a delicately layered drawing that emphasizes the fragile and transitional nature of the physical constructed world. Created with sumi-ink on parchment paper pressed between glass the artist's intent is to create a dialogue between the materials (the multiple layers of papers) that make the drawn image of a dwelling vibrate in the blank landscape. The work is like a document of information about a particular place, rendering it as a ghostly apparition of its original form.



**Rocío Rendón Castañeda** (Perú, b. 1972)  
*Gran raspa de la serie Raspa y gana estampa lúdica en liquidación / The Great Scratcher from the series Scratch and Win, Recreational Series in Liquidation*, 2007  
xerograph silkscreened on wood, 31 ½ x 47 ¼ x 1 ½ in.  
Gift of the artist

## PAINTING / TWO DIMENSIONAL MIXED MEDIA:

Winner of the Painting and Two-Dimensional Mixed Media category, Peruvian artist, Rocío Rendón Castañeda, is active on the national art scene, exhibiting and winning several important awards such as First Prize at the National Painting Competition in Lima in 1993. For the past several years the artist has combined the techniques of graphics and painting to create a mixed-media series of images titled, *Scratch and Win, Recreational Series in Liquidation*. Based on the concept of the lottery game known in Peru as "scratch and win," the series investigates the themes of desire, faith and luck.

The winning piece, *The Great Scratcher* from the *Scratch and Win* series, is a silkscreen mounted on wood painted over with a grey non-stick, scratch-off paint. The image below the grey paint is not revealed until the public viewer scratches the surface, like scratching a phone card or game card, to reveal the various images of good and bad luck charms and related mass-media icons. The final work is like a large billete or dollar bill of currency with an iconic figure or well-known personality as the central image. The process builds the viewers expectation of "winning" something special, to get "lucky" in order to fulfill their dreams and desires.



## SCULPTURE / THREE DIMENSIONAL MIXED MEDIA:

Winner of the Sculpture and Three-Dimensional Mixed Media category, Cuban artist Ángel Delgado Fuentes is considered one of the leading artists of contemporary Cuban art living in exile. Through a variety of mediums, including drawing, photography, performance, sculpture and installation art, Delgado pursues themes of individual freedom and/or the lack thereof, especially in Cuba. The content of his work became more political after he was imprisoned in Cuba for six months in 1990 for an anti-government performance art piece presented in a Havana gallery.

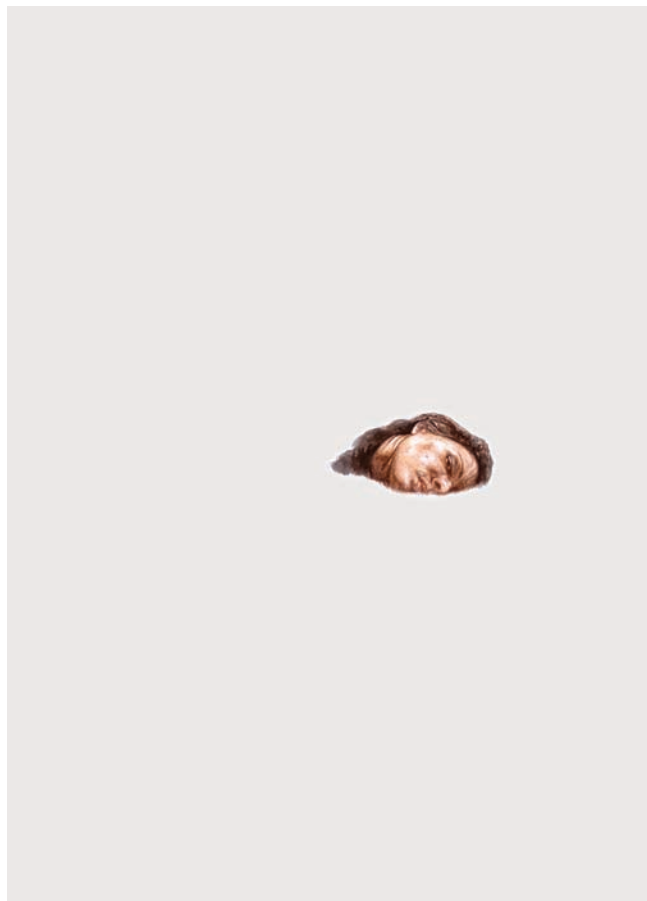
The award-winning sculpture, *Hacia dónde vamos VIII* (Where are We Going VIII), subtly criticizes the political conditions of present-day Cuba—the fear of non-conformity, the confrontational few and the idea that freedom is just a trip away. Placed within a black suitcase is a series of small white sheep carved in soap, in which several sheep run contrary to the herd. The significance of the carving is that the artist acquired this skill during his imprisonment and was one of the few available materials to make art.

**Ángel Delgado Fuentes** (Cuba, b. 1965)

*Hacia dónde vamos VIII / Where are We Going VIII*, 2008

Polyester and nylon suitcase, soap and wood base, 35 x 28 x 17 in.

Gift of the artist



## WORKS ON PAPER:

Winner of the Works on Paper category, El Salvadorian artist, Mayra Barraza, has actively exhibited and participated in the Central American art scene, earning a number of awards and honors. Barraza's figurative style reflects the current issues of her Salvadorian homeland and its social issues, most importantly the prevalent urban violence in the region.

The award-winning drawing is from the series *The Sleep of Reason* (El sueño de la razón) and depicts an anonymous, decapitated female head floating in an open space on the picture plane. The image evokes the sensation of horror, yet at the same time it compels an expanded social awareness about the local violence. Her drawings are inspired by a blog project she initiated in 2006 titled, *100 Days in the Republic of Death* (100 días en la República de la Muerte) which chronicled all of the murders reported in El Salvadorian newspapers over a 100 day period.

**Mayra Barraza** (El Salvador, b. 1966)

*Sin título de la serie El sueño de la razón*

Untitled from the *Sleep of the Reason* series, 2008

watercolor on paper, 40 x 27 ½ in.

Gift of the artist



## PHOTOGRAPHY / VIDEO:

Winner of the Photography and Video category, Cuban artist Claudio Castillo has been a painter and watercolor artist who became interested in animation, computers, video art and film in 1980. Fascinated with integrating the two different media, Castillo has on numerous occasions fused the dreamy, poetic qualities of watercolor painting with the endless possibilities of the digital world to create a form of "living painting" that is constantly moving and changing.

The winning piece, Virgin Apparition (Aparición de la Virgen de la Caridad), is a watercolor painting that has been manipulated by animation software giving the portrait an ethereal effect, eerily appearing and disappearing and transforming continually before the viewer's eyes. The watercolor image of the Virgin has been digitized and split into four layers; each layer is animated independently of the other image and re-grouped in a computer sequence, offering an infinite number of possible scenes for the appearance of the iconic image.

**Claudio Castillo** (Cuba, b. 1958)

Virgin Apparition / Aparición de la Virgen de la Caridad, 2007  
Computer animation (watercolor manipulated by animation software show non computer monitor with interactive component),  
31 x 24 5/8 in., Gift of the artist



## HONORABLE MENTION

Winner of Honorable Mention, Argentinean sculptor Daniel Fiorda has earned numerous awards in both his native country and the United States for his sculptural objects. Using discarded metals, materials and found objects, he fuses the old with the new to construct his sculptural forms, most recently in a square format. The metal sculptures are subtly embellished with enamel and wax applications and remodeled to reveal levels of construction and deconstruction.

The winning sculpture, Mechanical Apple (Manzana mecánica), is made of steel, enamel and wax with a deep-carved diagonal impression across its surface. The constructed repetitive pattern of the impression, suggests the unraveling of a staircase or ladder or a mechanized conveyer belt offers the viewer possibly an aerial perspective of the microscopic scenario of a hidden world found within the object.

**Daniel Fiorda** (Argentina, b. 1963)

Mechanical Apple / Manzana mecánica, 2008  
Steel, enamels and wax, 20 x 20 x 2 in.  
Gift of the artist