

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Visible Award Announces 2017 Recipient

A Temporary Parliament comprising artists, experts, members of the general public chose Luis Agosto-Leduc and Jesús 'Bubu' Negrón from Puerto Rico as the recipient of the \$30,000 award for the their grassroots artist collective Brigada Puerta de Tierra.



Brigada Puerta de Tierra. Photo by Luis Agosto-Leduc and Jesús 'Bubu' Negrón

Queens , N.Y. [December 5, 2017] -- The [Visible Award](#) concluded its fourth biennial temporary parliament at the [Queens Museum](#) on Saturday, December 2, 2017. Its jury comprised artists, experts, and members of the general public from a multitude of backgrounds, who, after a day of deliberating the nine shortlisted art projects, selected via an open vote Luis Agosto-Leduc and Jesús 'Bubu' Negrón from Puerto Rico as the recipient of the \$30,000 award.

Leduc and Negrón's winning project [BRIGADA PUERTA DE TIERRA](#) (BPDT) is a grassroots artist collective founded in 2015 in Puerta de Tierra, which is located on the periphery of Old San Juan in Puerto Rico. Although Puerta de Tierra is historically and strategically important to the island, the neighborhood suffers from an ageing population, lack of ownership, and a disenfranchised young working class that fights to stay in their community despite an inequitable real estate market.

BPDT is formed by children and young community members, centring its activities on the preservation and well-being of the neighbourhood, its history and its people. The collective uses art as a tool to challenge top-down standard urban development practices and operates through four key concepts: self-management, consciousness-raising, strategic planning and collective decision-making. For the the past two years BPDT has succeeded in an outreach community campaign with the slogan 'Aqui vive gente!', engaging residents and raising awareness on the role that youth empowerment can play in flourishing a sustainable and inclusive community-centred development. This campaign frames the artists'

development theory and creative problem-solving approaches. As a result, BPD has succeeded in negotiations between the San Juan Municipality and the Puerta de Tierra community for the acquisition of two abandoned buildings to be developed into community-driven Social Centres.

Jesús 'Bubu' Negrón (1975, Barceloneta, Puerto Rico) is an artist whose work is characterised by minimal interventions, the re-contextualisation of everyday objects and a relational approximation to artistic production as a revealing act of historical, social and economic proportions. Luis Agosto-Leduc (1976, San Juan, Puerto Rico) is an artist interested in community groups, structures of care and support, utopian architectures, toxic colonialism and political ecologies. Both Negrón and Agosto-Leduc are from Puerto Rico. Their project was proposed by Julia Morandeira Arrizabalaga.

"The assembly appreciated such a strong mix of artistic visions and urban strategies operating in a beautiful, intergenerational way. The skills developed within a project of civic self-organization have been assessed as an incredible and exemplary force to resist and fight urban gentrification and the exploitation of local resources. The powerful and yet simple campaign 'Aqui vive gente!' shows the potential of a community when it becomes a political constituency and strive against new and old colonizing subjects," said Matteo Lucchetti and Judith Wielander, Visible project co-directors.

The Visible Award (created by Cittadellarte Fondazione Pistoletto and Fondazione Zegna) is the first European award that sustains socially engaged artistic practice in a global context, and seeks to offer a platform for innovative projects that have the potential to become visible in fields other than artistic ones. Visible's approach has been unique from the outset for piloting the public jury format at the 2013 Award at the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven. Subsequently, in 2015, the Award was organized in collaboration with Tate Liverpool at the Liverpool City Council, where the notion of a Temporary Parliament was inaugurated. The public's engagement in the assessment and voting on the art projects transformed the Award into an occasion for collective learning and the expansion of the discourse instigated by and around the projects. In the process of assessing the winning project the jury also offered an opportunity to deepen the debate around artistic engagement in the public domain.

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About Visible

Visible is a contemporary art research project devoted to producing and sustaining socially engaged art practices in a global context. Operating since 2010, it has taken a global and interdisciplinary approach to researching the physical and theoretical spaces in which these practices affect society. In 2011, Visible initiated the biennial Visible Award, the first European award for socially engaged artistic practices.

As a nomadic institution, Visible has worked with a variety of formats, collaborations, and institutions, including Tate, Liverpool; Creative Time, New York; Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven; Kunsthaus, Graz; Kadist Art Foundation, San Francisco; Center for Historical Reenactments, Johannesburg; The Serpentine Galleries, London; and the Fondation Lafayette, Paris. Visible is part of the Extended Network of Public Art Producers (ENPAP). The Visible project is directed by Matteo Lucchetti and Judith Wielander, and initiated by Cittadellarte - Fondazione Pistoletto in collaboration with Fondazione Zegna.

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About the Queens Museum

The Queens Museum in Flushing Meadows Corona Park features contemporary art, events of hyperlocal and international impact, and educational programs reflecting the diversity of Queens and New York City. Changing exhibitions present the work of emerging and established artists, both local and global, that often explore contemporary social issues, as well as the rich history of its site. In November 2013, the Museum reopened with an expanded footprint of 105,000 square feet, a soaring skylit atrium, a suite of daylight galleries, nine artist studios, and flexible event space. The Museum works outside its walls through engagement initiatives ranging from multilingual outreach and educational opportunities for adult immigrants, to a plethora of community led art and activism projects. The Museum's educational programming connects with schoolchildren, teens, families, seniors as well as those individuals with physical and mental disabilities. The Queens Museum is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

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