

# Xavier Cortada

## Bio

Xavier Cortada created art installations in the Earth's poles to generate awareness about global climate change: In 2007, an NSF Antarctic Artist and Writer's 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, he planted a green flag at the North Pole to reclaim it for nature and launch a reforestation eco-art effort.

Since 2011, Xavier Cortada has based his engaged art-science practice at Florida International University. He serves as Artist-in-Residence at FIU School of Environment, Arts and Society, the FIU College of Arts, Sciences & Education, and the FIU College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts.

Cortada often collaborates with scientists in his art-making:

At CERN, Cortada worked with a physicist to develop a site-specific art installation capturing the five search strategies which the CMS experiment has used to discover a new Higgs-like particle. The five giant banners hang at the location (100m below the ground) where the particle was discovered.

He has also worked with a population geneticist on a project exploring our ancestral journeys out of Africa 60,000 years ago, with a molecular biologist to synthesize an actual DNA strand made from a sequence randomly generated by participants visiting his museum exhibit, and with botanists in eco-art projects to reforest mangroves, native trees and wildflowers.

Cortada is currently working with scientists at Hubbard Brook LTER on a water cycle visualization project driven by real-time data collected at a watershed in New Hampshire's White Mountains.

At Florida International University, Cortada is collaborating with Florida Coastal Everglades LTER scientists in using the diatoms they study to engage t sea level rise in the century to come.o address sea level rise and environmental degradation.

The Miami artist has worked with groups globally to produce numerous collaborative art projects, including 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, Holland and Latvia.

Cortada has also been commissioned to create art for the White House, the World Bank, the Florida Supreme Court, the Florida Governor's Mansion, Florida Botanical Gardens, Miami City Hall, Miami-Dade County Hall, the Miami Art Museum, the Miami Science Museum, Museum of Florida History, and the Frost Art Museum.

His work is in the collections of the Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), the NSU Museum of Art in Ft. Lauderdale, the Whatcom Museum, the Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum and the MDC Museum of Art + Design.

Corporations such as General Mills, Nike, Heineken and Hershey's have commissioned his art. Publishers like McDougal and Random House have featured it in school textbooks and publications. His work has also been featured in National Geographic TV and the Discovery Channel.

Cortada, who was born in Albany, New York and grew up in Miami, holds degrees from the University of Miami College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate School of Business and School of Law.

## Resume

Miami artist Xavier Cortada created art installations at the North Pole and South Pole to address environmental concerns at every point in between. He's been commissioned to create art for the White House, the World Bank, Miami City Hall, Miami-Dade County Hall, Florida Botanical Gardens, the Miami Art Museum, Museum of Florida History, Miami Science Museum and the Frost Art Museum.

Cortada has also developed numerous collaborative art projects globally, including peace murals in Cyprus and Northern Ireland, child welfare murals in Bolivia and Panama, AIDS murals in Geneva and South Africa, and eco-art projects in Taiwan, Holland, Hawaii and Latvia. (See bio)

### PROFESSIONAL:

- Artist-in-Residence and Director, Florida International University College of Architecture + The Arts | Office of Engaged Creativity, Miami Beach, FL (2011-present)
- Artistic Director and Founder, The Reclamation Project, Miami Science Museum, Miami, FL (2006-present)
- Professional Artist (1997-present)

### LEADERSHIP:

- Vice Chair, Florida Council on Arts and Culture, Tallahassee, FL (present)

- Councilor, Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs Council, Miami, FL (present)
- Member, City of Miami Arts and Entertainment Council, Miami, FL (present)
- Member, City of Miami Education Advisory Council, Miami, FL (present)
- Executive Committee, Miami-Dade Community Relations Board (CRB) (past)

#### EDUCATION:

- Juris Doctor, University of Miami School of Law Coral Gables, FL (December 1991).
- Master of Public Administration, University of Miami Graduate School, Coral Gables, FL (December 1991).
- Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, University of Miami College of Arts and Sciences, Coral Gables, FL (December 1986).

#### SELECTED MEDIA:

- Painting the Genome for the Public, *Science*, 4 February 2011: Vol. 331 no. 6017 p. 548
- Green Museum, by Allison Compton, *Public Art Review*, Issue 40, pp 52-55 (Spring/Summer 2009).
- Global Warnings, by Suzaan Boettger, *Art in America*, Issue No. 6, pp. 154-161, 206-207, June/July 2008.
- The Arts: "The Longitudinal Installation: Representing those affected by climate change," *Resurgence*, edition 243, page 32-33 (July/August 2007).
- Kunsthaus Miami exhibit. Review by Milagros Bello. Published in *arte al día* (International Magazine of Contemporary Latin American Art), edition 119, (July 2007).

#### SELECTED GRANTS/Residencies:

- BLOOM at Kaohsiung International Container Art Festival, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, 2011.
- Paths and Traces/Chemins et Tracés, Fondation Derouin –Symposium 2009, Les Jardins du Précambrien, Val-David, Quebec, Canada, 2009.
- Kunst- en natuurwandeling OverLeven, Foundation Nature Art Drenthe (Stichting Natuurkunst Drenthe), Drenthe, the Netherlands, 2009.

- 90N (North Pole) Installations, New York Foundation for the Arts, NYFA sponsored artist, 2008.
- Art in Antarctica (South Pole Installations), National Science Foundation Antarctic Artists and Writers Program, 2006-2007.
- Prior grantors also include: U.S. State Department, USAID, State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs Council, Miami-Dade Art in Public Places.

#### SELECTED PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS

2012 Broward Public Art and Design Program, Port Everglades Terminal 2, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

2010 Miami-Dade Art in Public Places, City of Miami Gardens Aquatic Center, Miami Gardens, FL

2008 Art in State Buildings, Frost Art Museum, Miami, FL.

2008 Monroe County Art in Public Places, Upper Keys Government Center, FL.

2008 Pinellas County Art in Public Places, Florida Botanical Gardens, Largo, FL.

2007 Monroe County Art in Public Places North Key Largo Fire Station, Key Largo, FL.

#### SELECTED LECTURES

In recent years, Cortada has delivered formal lectures about his art at:

- Auburn University, Auburn, AL (2009)
- Exploratorium (at the Palace of Fine Arts), San Francisco, CA (2009)
- NKNU Graduate Institute of Interdisciplinary Art, Kaohsiung, Taiwan (2011)
- Parsons The New School for Design, New York, NY (2011)
- Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA (2008)
- Princeton University, Princeton, NJ (2010)
- San Jose State University, San Jose, CA (2010)
- United States Embassy, Helsinki, Finland (2008)
- University of South Florida St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg, FL (2011)

#### SELECTED SOLO ART EXHIBITS:

2010 Sequentia, Frost Art Museum, Miami, FL.

2010 North Pole/South Pole (90n/90s) Installations, Miami Science Museum, Miami, FL.

2010 Endangered World: 80.15 W/ Installation, Biscayne National Park, Homestead, FL.

2009 Native Flags: North Pole, ecoartspace, Verge Art Fair, Miami Beach, FL.

2009 The Reclamation Project, Martin County Courthouse Cultural Center, Stuart, FL.

#### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITS:

2011 Nurturing Nature, Concordia College's OSilas Gallery, Bronxville, NY

2011 Annual Alumni Exhibition, University of Miami College of Arts and Sciences Art Gallery, Coral Gables, FL

2010 New Media Festival, 5th edition, Hardcore Art Contemporary Space, Miami, FL

2010 The Liberators Project/Liberadores (Denver Biennial of the Americas), Museo de las Americas, Denver, CO.

2010 Adaptation, Art and Culture Center of Hollywood, Hollywood, FL.

2009 Water: Three States, Auburn University Art Gallery, Auburn, AL.

2009 Polar Identity, Works Gallery, San Jose, CA.

2009 Antarctica: Collection from the Bottom of the World, Maryland Science Center, Baltimore, MD.

2009 Sustainable?, Central Connecticut State University Gallery, New Britain, CT.

#### SELECTED MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

- Permanent collection of the PAMM (former Miami Art Museum)
- Permanent collection of the NSU Museum of Art Ft. Lauderdale
- Permanent collection of the Whatcom Museum
- Permanent collection of the Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum
- Permanent collection of the MDC Museum of Art + Design
- The World Bank

- Department of State Art Collection, State of Florida
- Miami Science Museum

## SELECTED COMMISSIONS & ART PROJECTS

2015 Florida Turnpike  
West Palm Beach Plaza  
Ft. Drum Plaza  
Turkey Lake Plaza

2015 Miami-Dade Public Housing Authority, Miami, FL  
Jack Orr Plaza

2014 Broward Public Art and Design Program, Port Everglades Terminal 4, Ft.  
Lauderdale, FL  
Pelican Path

2014 Miami-Dade Public Housing Authority, Miami, FL  
Stirrup Plaza  
Pineiro Apartments  
Collins Park Apartments

2013 Miami-Dade Public Housing Authority, Miami, FL  
Dante Fascell Apartments  
South Miami Plaza  
Joe Moretti Apartments

2012 Broward Public Art and Design Program, Port Everglades Terminal 2, Ft.  
Lauderdale, FL  
Starfish Shuffle

2012 Miami-Dade Art in Public Places, City of Miami Gardens Aquatic Center, Miami  
Gardens, FL  
Splash!

2008 Art in State Buildings, Frost Art Museum, Miami, FL  
Four Elements at the Frost

2008 Monroe County Art in Public Places, Upper Keys Government Center, Key  
Largo, FL

2008 Pinellas County Art in Public Places, Florida Botanical Gardens, Largo, FL

2008 Coconut Grove Arts Festival Poster Artist, Miami, FL

2007 Monroe County Art in Public Places North Key Largo Fire Station, Key Largo, FL

- 2007 Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, Hispanic Heritage Month poster, Tallahassee, FL
- 2006 House of Cards, Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), North Miami, FL
- 2006 Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, Florida Heritage Month poster, Tallahassee, FL
- 2005 City Hall Murals, City of Miami, FL
- 2004 Our Community, Miami-Dade County Hall, Foyer to Commission Chambers, Miami, FL
- 2004 Miami Mangrove Forest, underpasses of I-95 throughout City of Miami
- 2003 Dreaming of a World Free of Poverty, The World Bank, Washington, D.C.
- 2002 Stepping into the American Dream – the official mural of the White House Conference on Minority Homeownership, Washington, D.C.
- 2001 I do hereby promise mural, Miami Art Museum, Miami, FL.
- 2000 Listen to the Children of the Green Island mural for the US Embassy, Nicosia, Cyprus.
- 2000 Northern Ireland Peace mural sponsored by the U.S. State Department, Belfast, Northern Ireland.
- 2000 Breaking the Silence mural during the 13th International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa.
- 1999 Centennial Commemorative mural (glass mosaic) on façade of Miami-Dade County Juvenile Courthouse, Miami, FL.
- 1998 Bridging the Gap mural during the 12th International AIDS Conference in Geneva, Switzerland

#### SELECTED AWARDS

- 2008 New York Foundation for the Arts, NYFA sponsored artist
- 2007 Creative Capital Professional Development Program
- 2006-07 National Science Foundation Antarctic Artists and Writers Program