

Fall 2021

Si Solo Tu Supiera'

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Si Solo Tu Supiera'

Senior Project Submitted to
The Division of the Arts
of Bard College

by
Andy Garcia

Annandale-on-Hudson, New York
December 2021

*Primeramente gracias a Dios por darme vida, salud, y la fuerza
para terminar este proyecto a pesar de todas las obstáculos.*

*Para mi mama y papa, Escolastica Santos y Eri, a quienes le debo todo lo
bueno que he heredado y quienes me han dirigido por buenos caminos.*

*Para mi hermano mayor, Angelo Garcia, quien me he
apoyado a pesar de la distancia.*

*Para mi hermano menor, Anderson Garcia, mi sujeto favorito y quien
amo con todo mi corazon. Tu eres una luz en la oscuridad.*

*Para mis abuelos, Altagracia (Kenia) Williams, y Ana Dolores Garcia,
is apoyadores mas grandes quienes me enseñaron un amor inmenso.*

*Para los familiares que no pueden llegar
los amos mucho y nos veremos pronto.*

*En recuerdo a Gregorio Martinez, Juan Santos, y Leovigildo Gomez
que descansen en paz.*

Artist Statement

English version
by Andy Garcia

From my twelfth-floor apartment in the Manhattanville Projects, I look down at the valley that constitutes the 125th Street Fault and the trestle that supports the 1 Train. The fault line and the trestle symbolize a fracture in the continuity of Harlem on the y-axis of Broadway separating the newly constructed Columbia University Manhattanville Campus from the Manhattanville Projects and the General Grant Houses. This fracture is exacerbated by the physical geographic feature of the fault, the man-made trestle, as well as a division that was drawn by Columbia University and its disruption of the justice system that had existed in the neighborhood beforehand. The carceral justice system put in place by Columbia University precipitated the largest “gang-raid” in New York City history resulting in the indictment of 103 people. The retaliatory justice system that had existed previously created a second division on the x-axis of 125th Street—shutting me off from my friends in the General Grant Houses eventually creating animosity between us. *Untitled (Manhattanville Projects from 1 Train Platform)* shows us the austere facade of my building and the other buildings in the development stripping away any allusions to the magic, poverty, or violence, experienced there.

Forty-Five Minutes from my grandma’s house in Aminilla, Santiago Rodriguez, Dominican Republic is *Rio Dajabon* (also known as *Rio Masacre*) which constitutes the northernmost part of the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The same river that Amabelle’s parents died trying to cross in Edwidge Danticat’s novel *The Farming of Bones*. The same river where the ethnic cleansing of tens of thousands of Haitian migrants occurred between October 2nd-October 8th 1937. This physical geographic feature has as much blood on its hands as the sidewalk below the trestle of the 1 train platform on 125th. The day I mentioned to my uncle that I wanted to travel to *Rio Dajabon*, Jovenel Moïse was murdered in his home in cold blood. That night the news broke, a family friend, Ely, and I set out and had a 45 minute recorded conversation—that has since been lost from an inexplicable liquid that dissolved the conversations into purely memory—culminating in Ely momentarily convincing me Jovenel Moïse’s security was in on it. However, the portrait I made of Ely, *Untitled (Ely Fenelus)*, will immortalize that conversation serving as an allusion of him in his “power stance” as President Moïse and the shadow, cast from the flash, creeping upon him from the depths of the land filled with sugarcane as his murderer.

Spanish version

Translated by Johan Orellana

Desde el doceavo piso en los proyectos de Manhattanville, miró hacia abajo al valle que constituye la falla de la calle 125 y la estructura que soporta el tren 1. La línea que crea la falla y la estructura del tren simbolizan la continuidad de Harlem en el eje Y de Broadway, separando el recién construido campus de Manhattanville de la Universidad de Columbia de los proyectos de Manhattanville y viviendas públicas General Grant. La fractura es exacerbada por la característica geografía de la falla, la artificialidad metálica del tren, al igual que la división que ha creado la Universidad de Columbia y la antes presente ruptura del sistema de justicia en el barrio. El sistema de justicia carcelario fomentado por la Universidad de Columbia precipitó la “redada de pandillas” más grande en la historia de la ciudad de Nueva York, la que resultó en la acusación de 103 personas. El sistema de justicia de represalia, que había existido anteriormente, creó una segunda división en el eje X de la calle 125 _aislandome de mis amigos que residen en las viviendas públicas General Grant, eventualmente creando hostilidad entre nosotros. *Untitled (Manhattanville Projects from 1 Train Platform)*/Sin título (*Los proyectos Manhattanville desde la plataforma del tren 1*) nos muestra la fachada astringente de mi edificio y de otros en la misma situación de desarrollo, eliminando cualquier alusión a la magia, la pobreza o violencia que se vive allí.

Cuarenta y cinco minutos de la casa de mi abuela en Aminilla, Santiago Rodriguez, Republica Dominicana es el *Rio Dajabon* (referido también como *Rio Masacre*) que constituye la parte de la frontera más al norte que divide a la Republica Dominicana y Haití. El mismo rio donde los padres de Amabelle se ahogaron en el libro seminal escrito por Edwidge Danticat *The Farming of Bones*. El mismo rio donde mataron decenas de miles de haitianos durante la “limpieza de sangre” que ocurrió del 2^{do} de Octubre al 8^{vo} de Octubre en el 1937. Esta característica geografía tiene mas “sangre en sus manos” que el espacio debajo de la estructura que soporta el tren 1. El día que yo le mencione a mi tío que yo quería ir al *Rio Dajabon*, Jovenel Moïse, el presidente de Haití, fue asesinado a sangre fría dentro de su casa. La noche después del asesinato, cuando el mundo se enteró, Ely y yo, caminamos media hora al parque de Aminilla, y de regreso tuvimos una conversación de cuarenta y cinco minutos—que, por un líquido inexplicable, he sido disuelto en memoria. Esa conversación culminó en Ely convenciendome por un segundo que la seguridad fueron responsable por el asesinato. El retrato que yo hice de Ely sirve como un documento de recuerdo de esa conversación. Ely posando en una forma que asume poder y elegancia representa el Presidente Moïse, y la sombra de Ely, echada por el flash, representa los asesinos.

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For all of the help with troubleshooting and fleshing out ideas.

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Thank you, I owe you for a lifetime.

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For lending a helping hand and being such incredible friends and reassuring me throughout this entire process. I am so grateful for all of you. Thank you all!

In remembrance of Barbara Ess.



LOCATION

WOODS STUDIO
23 WOODS AVENUE
ANNANDALE-ON-
HUDSON, NY 12504

SI
SOLO
TU
SUPIERA'

SHOW

DECEMBER 6TH TO DECEMBER 17TH

RECEPTION

DECEMBER 10TH FROM 6-8 PM