



A Salute to Summer!  
by Gretchen Wagoner

[DCG Open](#)

David Castillo

2234 NW 2nd Avenue, Miami 33127

June 12, 2010 - July 3, 2010

What better way for a recent New York City transplant to get introduced to the Miami art community than visiting DCG Open at David Castillo Gallery? Just voted Best Art Dealer by Miami New Times, David Castillo Gallery has been a presence in Wynwood, Miami's burgeoning art district, since 2005. Taking refuge from the oppressive heat one day, I had the chance to visit his inviting (and well air-conditioned) gallery to take in the once yearly summer show, a survey exhibition of sixty-six Miami-based artists.

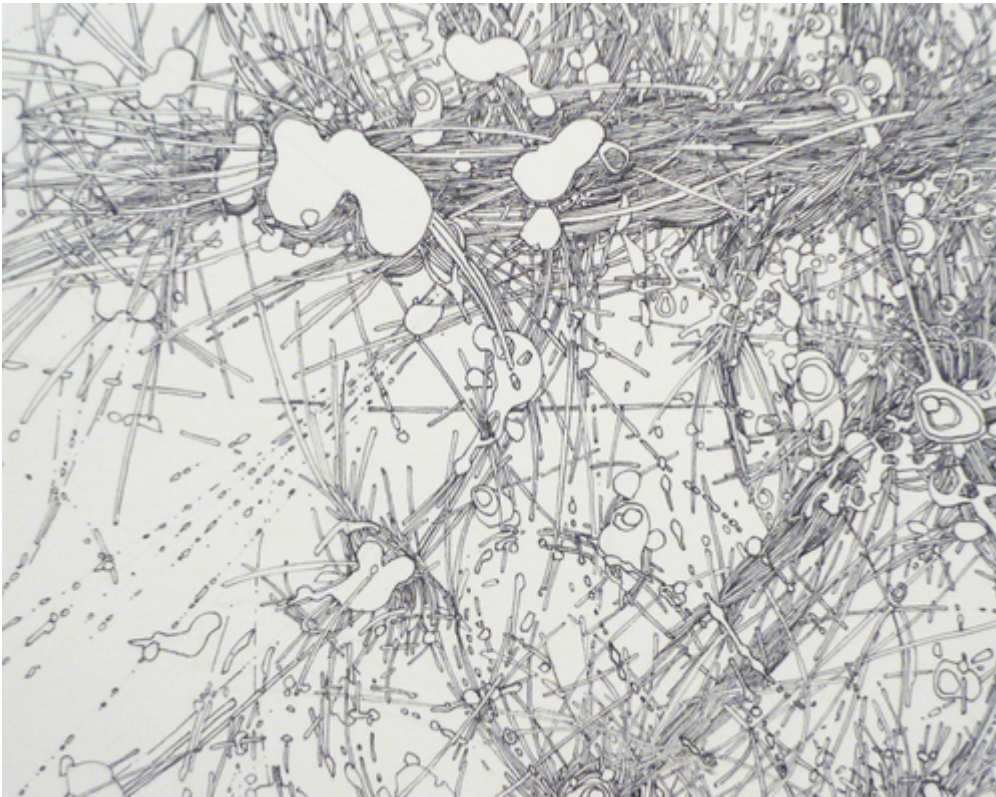


One could assume that in a show this expansive, many works may get lost. Not the case at DCG Open, there is a continuity here that keeps the show flowing. Most of the works are of a modest scale and everything (for the most part) is hung at the same level, subconsciously guiding the viewer around the perimeter of both the larger gallery and the smaller project room. Although the show features everything from performance art to sound pieces, a majority of the works here are 2-D pieces. One exception is Alex Trimino's *Intermission*, which occupies a small amount of corner space in the project room. A number of multicolored crocheted string dollies hang from the ceiling in front of a projection on the wall. The dollies cast a beautiful shadow against this projection, a super 8-like video mimicking shadows of the connected dollies, twirling through time in slow motion, while the actual dollies twirl in real time. In the larger gallery, Jay Ore's *Sonic Boom*, a Styrofoam and Glass bead covered frilly white dress wearing unicorn Piñata hangs high from the ceiling. This piece is so uncanny in fact that at first I missed it completely, even without a blindfold. Unlike the other works, this gussied up unicorn is hung high from the ceiling far from one's reach.

Other stand out pieces include Gustavo Roman's *Untitled #2 (after Albert, Robert, Felix, and Tracey 1)*, a single, crumpled pillow beautifully drawn in white colored pencil on black paper conjures up opposite images of pillow fights, erotic encounters, or restless nights. Jonathan B. Thomas' patterned drawing, *Call of the Wild* uses equal parts positive and negative space leaving one to wonder whether the work is black on white or white on black – it turns

out to be very dark graphite on paper. This work has a feeling of an image that has been reduced into abstraction; I can't help but feel as if I am peering into a wooded environment, with light streaming through the wilderness. Raul Perdomo's *System 4* utilizes obsessive compulsive drawing skills to create an intricate web of explosions and collisions that is otherworldly. Scientific imagery is appropriated, and carefully mapped out mark making brings sense to a contained chaos.

*DCG Open* proves that Miami is rich with a small but serious art community whose future looks quite bright.



Images: Jay Ore, *Sonic Boom*, 2010, Styrofoam and Glass bead covered Pinata; Gustavo Roman, *Untitled #2 (after Albert, Robert, Felix, and Tracey I)*, 2010, White colored pencil on paper, 12" x 18"; Raul Perdomo, *System 4* (detail image), 2009, Ink on paper, 22.5" x 30". Courtesy the artists and David Castillo Gallery.