Storefront IS Dominican Republic

June 25–30, 2013

Punta Cana
La Romana
Santo Domingo
Boca Chica
Dajabón

Storefront International Series: Dominican Republic (Storefront IS DR), organized in collaboration with Laboratorio Dominicano de Arquitectura (LAD), is a six-day series of events to take place in contested sites across the country while addressing the most pressing issues in the construction of public life in the region. Local experts, in conversation with global experts from different fields, will present and discuss their ideas and observations on various sites throughout the country in order to articulate some of the most relevant questions of the cultural and physical landscapes in the Dominican Republic today.

Live tweeting of all events
@storefrontnyc
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#DR

Storefront International Series

The Storefront Series is a nomadic project that takes Storefront for Art and Architecture events to different cities and territories around the globe. The Storefront Series, currently with 9 types of events, adopts the most relevant modes of engagement within a given moment site in time/place. Establishing a transversal format of inquiry, the Storefront International Series works with local individuals and institutions in countries across the globe to identify relevant topics and address the most pressing challenges of the region by providing alternative frameworks of discussion. Going beyond social, disciplinary or ideological boundaries, Storefront International Series aims to break established lines of division to produce spaces of collective thought, reflection and ultimately action. With a mix of local and global experts from the fields of art, architecture, literature, politics, real state, anthropology, economics, technology and science as well as citizens at large, the Storefront International Series aims to articulate local desires within global understandings.

The first edition of the Storefront International Series takes place in the Dominican Republic from June 25–30, 2013.

1 On Progress
June 25

Definitions Series
Punta Cana
Cruce de Verón
10am

The possibility of a better world is narrowly seen through only one lens; many societies around the world are today immersed and often driven by the illusion of progress. In a context like the Dominican Republic where tourism is the single biggest revenue earner, high-end resorts stand meters away from workers living on the fringe of what is acceptable for modern western living standards. At the same time, cantines with relaxed individuals might be observing in peace and with a charming calm the horizon, very far away from the frenzy of modern hyper connected life. In the Dominican Republic there are many directions to grow, but to what do we refer when we talk about progress?

Participants
Christy Ching (NY architect), Dominic Leong & Chris Leong (NY architects), Amaldo Montesino (local tourism representative), Emil Rodriguez Gandini (local urban designer and city planner), Michelle Valdez (local architect and urban planner), Gustavo Valdez (local architect and urban planner), Robert J. Mena Gerbes (journalist), moderated by Eva Franch i Gilabert (NY/BCN curator and architect).

Definitions Series is an online and live event that consists of constructing multiple definitions from different viewpoints of a singular word or concept. Participants contribute on line and during the event by reading their personal definition of a word followed by a group discussion with the audience.

2 Ecologies of Tourism
June 25

Walking Series
Punta Cana
7pm

The relationship between development and nature has historically been seen as mutually exclusive. In the Dominican Republic the need and vision to articulate and interlink both is a constant project that has found many successful forms.

What are the lessons to be learned and what new spaces might appear from such interaction?

Participants
Christy Ching (NY architect), Jake Kheel (ecologist), Dominic Leong & Chris Leong (NY architects), Antonio Imbert (local architect), Ramon Pegueros (local tourism representative), moderated by Eva Franch i Gilabert (NY/BCN curator and architect).

Walking Series is an event in transition that invites individuals familiar and foreign to the explored territory to lead a walking exercise through the streets or paths of a certain city or territory. Borrowing from guided tours and derives, the Walking Series unveils latent realities by non experience.

3 Identity
June 26

Total Enthusiasm Series
La Romana
10am

La Isabela in the DR was the first European city in the Americas. Dominican Republic's architecture ranges from colonial architectures, to neoclassical styles, to modern buildings to self built constructions and favelas. However, if one is to look closely beyond forms and styles into what constitutes the culture of the place, one might ask: is there a "genius loci", an identifiable form of architectural, urban or social space beyond inherited forms of culture production?

Participants
Christy Ching (NY architect), Dominic Leong & Chris Leong (NY architects), moderated by Eva Franch i Gilabert (NY/BCN curator and architect).

Total Enthusiasm is an event based on the exposure of ideas in a framework of celebration and excitement nonacademic taking the form of a celebratory statement, affirmative action, poem or other from exempt of direct and explicit criticism.

4 Innovation
June 26

Reading Images Series
Pinewood Indomina Studios
7pm

Specific cultures, landscapes and territories carry intrinsic spaces of innovation. To innovate is to see a potentiality where someone else saw nothing. What is there yet to be found in the Dominican Republic?

Participants
Iván Rubio Castillo (local architect), Dominic Leong & Chris Leong (NY architects), Ivan Mubarak (local architect and developer), moderated by Eva Franch i Gilabert (NY/BCN curator and architect).

Reading Images is an image-based event that invites specific individuals to closely look into images regarding a specific site or theme and develop and constructs arguments, narratives and observations that produce reviews readings of form, politics, gaze and representation.

5 Infrastructure
June 27

Productive Disagreement Series
Estación Ecológica Las Malvinas
10am

From electricity to water administration, from roads to public transportation, the Dominican Republic struggles to find the governmental structure to provide thriving networks in the traditional sense. Should infrastructure be a private endeavor? A public investment? What are the appropriate models of infrastructural development?

Participants
Marcelo Albuquerque (local architect), Mauricio Domínguez (local architect and historian), Bolivia Koutsy (local architect and nonprofit professional), Dominic Leong & Chris Leong (NY architects), Alex Martinez Suarez (local architect and researcher), Saeed Meyreles (local architect), Lourdes Meyreles (local sociologist/disaster prevention expert), Carmen Ortega (architect and magazine editor), Gustavo Mark (local architect, magazine editor), moderated by Eva Franch i Gilabert (NY/BCN curator and architect).

Productive Disagreement Series develops conversations between strategically opposed communities, institutions, artists or architects. The events avoid compromise and agreement as a methodology of dialogical exchange, and promote confrontation and dialogue in order to generate a responsive audience, increase participation, and obtain a multiplicity of viewpoints and strategies.

6 Local Foreign
June 27

Paella Series
Boca Chica
7pm

It is well known that food does not travel well. Recipes are not enough for the production of a dish; some would argue that not even the right ingredients are enough. In a time of increasing globalizing forces, the need to identify and preserve the fundamentals of each local space have become more important than ever. Words, animal species, traditions become extinct as new words, species and traditions emerge through digital territories not bound to physical locations. Local and foreign are not anymore bound to physical conditions, yet food, still does not travel well. What are the global desires and the local understandings in the DR?

Participants
Frank Báez (local poet), Tony Capellán (local artist), Sachi Hoshikawa (NY/DR architect), Emil Rodriguez Gandini (local urban designer and city planner), Rubén Hernández Fontana (local architect), Andrea Jaque (NY architect), Gamal Michelen (local art critic), Natalia Ortega (local curator), Jorge Pineda (local artist), Ángel Rivero (local musician) Maurice Sánchez (local artist), Mary Tavárez (artist), moderated by Eva Franch i Gilabert (NY/BCN curator and architect).

Paella Series is a performance-based event that produces intense conversations and debate by creating a space of quotidian action through cooking and eating. In a state of floating attention and distracted thought, the conversations held between a selected group of guests are recorded and archived for public access.

7 Geopolitical Borders
June 28

Interrogation Series
Dajabón
1pm

The relationship between Haiti and the Dominican Republic is a complex one. The island of Hispaniola is one island yet divided in two: the Dominican Republic is prosperous while Haiti is in desperate poverty. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere and the Dominican Republic has an annual per capita GDP growth averaging almost 5 percent, well above the Latin America and Caribbean regional average of 3.2 percent. Resources, labor and goods are being depleted, exchanged or imported constantly; what is the situation and what are the desirable possibilities on the horizon of expectations within this context?

Participants
Rhon Fwontaye Fiann Atijan (Red Feminista de Mujeres Artesanales), Jeffrey Inaba (NY architect and critic), Andrea Jaque (NY/MAD architect), Christopher Leong (NY architect), Carlos Miranda Long (local social entrepreneur), Melisa Vargas (local architect), moderated by Eva Franch i Gilabert (NY/BCN curator and architect).

Interrogation Series develops questionnaires and interviews between institutionalized modes of inquiry and/or emerging discourses. These events produce multiple methodologies of inquiry and extract answers.

8 Brave New Now
June 29

Manifesto Series
Santo Domingo
7pm

To move towards the future is always a brave—almost full—yet ultimately unavoidable act. What are the present visions that will take the Dominican Republic into its future?

Participants
Frank Báez (El Hombrecito), Juan Rubio Castillo (local architect), Iván Mubarak (local architect and developer), Emil Rodriguez Gandini (local urban designer and city planner), Rubén Hernández Fontana (local architect), Jeffrey Inaba (NY Architect), Andrea Jaque (NY architect), Ayaín Mercedes (UNICEF consultant) Mitsuhiro Sorai (communications director), Omar Rancier (Dean of Architecture, UNPHU), Juan Rubio Castillo (local architect), Jeffrey Inaba (NY architect and critic), Abraham Bou (DR Architect), Shuhei Shigematsu (NY architect), moderated by Eva Franch i Gilabert (NY/BCN curator and architect).

Manifesto Series develop and expose fresh, new ideas in a short, precise and concise manner. The events reinvigorate and reinvent the manifesto format as a way of exchanging ideas, forcing the participants to denounce a present or past condition, proclaim an alternative present, past or future situation and indicate a strategy or method to achieve its announced goals.

9 Rythm & Ruins
June 30

Cabaret Series
Santo Domingo
4pm

What brings individuals together, the constitution of the commons, takes many diverse forms. Signification and memory, symbolism and tradition, music and dance are some of the spaces of cultural and visceral togetherness that constitute public life. What are the contemporary forms of collectivity? How are we able to learn from past spaces and move into the future?

Participants
Andrea Jaque (NY architect), Chiang Ho (local architect), Elon Diaz (local architect), Constantinos Balanis (local architect), Grupo Bonye (music band), Iroh Mauldon (local architect), Frank Báez (El Hombrecito), presented by Eva Franch i Gilabert (NY/BCN curator and architect).

Cabaret Series develops modes of expression that engage with contemporary discourses, the audience and the social, political and physical space of the event in a playful, sexy and humorous manner. The events have the aim to produce new modes of communication between speakers, performers and spectators through provocation, seduction and immersion.

This last event will be immediately followed by the weekly popular Sunday dance in Las Ruinas del Monasterio de San Francisco. Dancing shoes are highly encouraged!

For more information or to learn how to participate, please email info@storefrontnews.org

Storefront IS Dominican Republic is presented in partnership with Laboratorio De Arquitectura Dominicana (LAD).

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For information on sponsorship of Storefront IS, please contact Kara Meyer, Director of External Relations at km@storefrontnews.org

Storefront for Art and Architecture

Storefront for Art and Architecture is committed to the advancement of innovative and critical positions at the intersections of architecture, art, and design. Storefront's program of exhibitions, events, competitions, international projects and publications provides an alternative platform for dialogue and collaboration across disciplinary, geographic and ideological boundaries. Through physical and digital platforms, Storefront provides an open forum for experiments that impact the understanding and future of cities, urban territories and public life. Since its founding in 1982, Storefront has presented the work of over one thousand architects and artists.

Storefront is a nonprofit institution and relies on the support of individuals like you. If you would like to make a donation or become a member, please call us at +1 212.431.5795 or visit our website at www.storefrontnews.org/support.

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Gallery Hours
Open Tuesday–Saturday 11am–6pm
Closed Sunday–Monday

Gallery location
Storefront's gallery is located at
97 Kenmare Street
between Mulberry and Lafayette Streets

Trains
6 to Spring
N/R to Prince
B/D/F/V to Broadway Lafayette

Storefront for Art and Architecture's exhibitions are made possible with the support of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; The Greenwich Collection, Ltd.; the Lily Auchincloss Foundation; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; The Peter T. Joseph Foundation; Storefront's Board of Directors, Storefront Members and by individual donors.

For more information about upcoming events and projects, or to learn about different ways to get involved with Storefront, please visit our website at www.storefrontnews.org, contact us at info@storefrontnews.org or call us at +1 212.431.5795.