

ARTIST'S STATEMENT
PEDRO GONZÁLEZ PULIDO



Having known Lorenzo DeStefano in Cuba since the mid-1990s, I have long admired his work as a photographer and filmmaker. I was especially impressed when he returned to Havana in 2001 to produce “*Music From The Edge Of Time*”, his definitive documentary film about our national musical heroes, Los Zafiros.

When I arrived in Ventura in 2015 to participate in the Art Walk and co-create a mural at 50 W. Main Street with Ventura artist M.B. Hanrahan, I had the chance to see a work-in-progress of Lorenzo’s new film, “*Hearing is Believing*”, about the amazing Rachel Flowers.

One of the things that captivates me most about Rachel is her seemingly unlimited capacity to play any instrument she puts her mind to. Not many musicians have this ability, especially from an early age, as is depicted very emotionally in Lorenzo’s film. She is a living link between North American, Western European, Brazilian and Cuban music.

It was during that 2015 trip to Ventura that I conceived of this series of paintings. I asked Lorenzo to send me as many production stills from his movie as he could. Fortunately, he had a great many of these to share. I used a selection of these as inspiration for the 10 diptychs you see in this U.S. premiere of my exhibition.

When Rachel arrived in Havana in December 2016 as an invited artist to the 32nd International Jazz Plaza Festival, and while the film was also screening here, I was proud to premiere these paintings during that journey. People’s reaction to the work was very positive, especially from those who had seen the film here and who went to hear Rachel play all over the city. In 10 days she performed two solo recitals and collaborated with many Cuban All-Stars at some of Havana’s most famous venues, and Live on the prestigious Radio Miramar. As I watched her perform and spent some time with her and her mother in other, non-musical moments, I began to understand that in Rachel we have a most unique individual, a universal artist, something I aspire to be as well.

I hope you enjoy the imagery I have created as a homage to Rachel, to her family, to Lorenzo and to the film, “*Hearing is Believing*”.



Pedro González Pulido
Havana – April 19, 2018