

2579 N Milwaukee Ave  
Chicago, IL

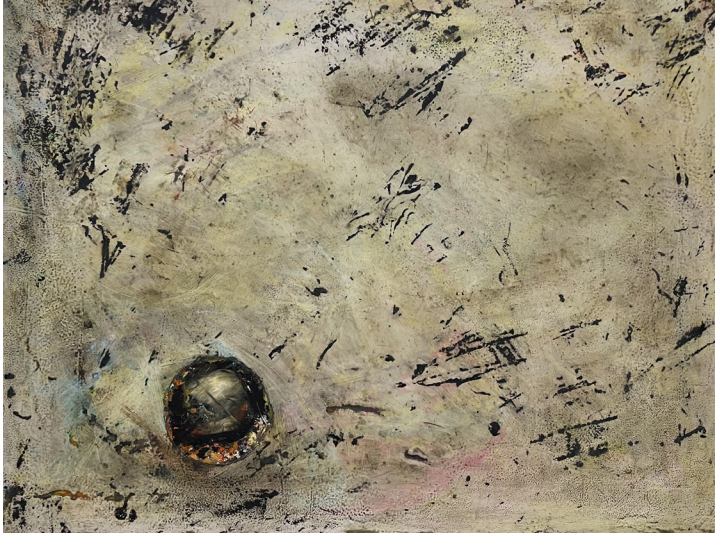
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F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E



the valley of the absent papayas. that lock you up. that search for you. that beautify you. and you fall in love with them so much. as if everything had to be shown. as if everything had to be fucked. even after death. to ambush your anguish. and spill through the holes. full of images. hickeys. scratches. with which you flee from the steam. from where you get your pain. that disappears. while I tell you all the silence.  
I really want to kiss you, man.

Yaismel Alba Garib, 2024  
Acrylic, Encaustic, Enamel and Canvas  
16 x 20 in.

## Opening Reception

Saturday, March 2nd  
4 – 7 P

Far from Cuba. Always on the edge. Expecting. Surviving. A catfish on the shore. I no longer feel the entrance to my hometown, nor the nights with those who stayed. Self exile. Exhaust. To play every day in a BDSM room. Everything passes, and only the painting remains. The walls, on which murals and photos of the murderers once stood, are now torn down. On the surfaces, there are paintings. Affirmations. Cuba before the disaster. Future. Paradiso by Jose Lezama Lima. Everything comes together in Chicago. Comfort Station welcomes me. The space is a bedroom. Sex. Pain. Calm. Where distance produces innocence. Where false identity is assumed to see images that excite you. And the WOW and the YEAH blend together as the paint settles and the cum shoots out.

## WOW YEAH

work by Yaismel Alba Garib

March 2 – 31, 2024

on view Sundays

11 A – 2 P

Born in Cuba, **Yaismel Alba Garib** is an interdisciplinary artist currently based in Chicago. His artistic journey explores the complex interplay between nothingness and somethingness, navigating the realms of completeness and emptiness. Exhibiting a penchant for performance art and painting, his work has been showcased in various notable exhibitions.

In 2022, Smooth and painful and Emptiness is completeness were featured at Fracas Art Gallery and the Graduate Exhibition at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, respectively. The previous year, Garib's work engaged audiences with Loving Cuba and The life I give at Tangential Unspace Art Lab and Old Ways New Tools at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. The exploration of physicality continued in 2020 with Is my body strong enough to hold a rebar? presented at Tangential Unspace Art Lab. His international presence is marked by the inclusion of El acto de destrucción es un acto de salvación at the XIII Havana Biennial in 2019 and Critical Control Point at Jose Marti Park in Miami in 2018.

Yaismel's artistic evolution is rooted in education, having pursued an MFA in Studio Performance at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago from 2020 to 2022. Prior to this, he earned a BFA in Theater Studies from the University of Arts (ISA) in Havana, Cuba, spanning from 2010 to 2015. His work is a testament to the constant transition between familiar completeness and elusive emptiness, embodying a moment that resides in perpetual flux, taking from and giving back to the world.

@\_yaismel