

Spike Island

PRESS RELEASE

Ofelia Rodríguez (1946–2023)



Spike Island are sad to learn of the recent death of artist Ofelia Rodríguez (1946–2023).

Throughout her life, Ofelia developed highly personal and original artwork shaped by her memories of her native Barranquilla, on the Caribbean coast of Colombia. With remarkable dedication, she constructed an imaginary world where myths, legends and popular traditions intertwine with daily life. Beneath the bright colours and tropical motifs that populate the vibrant surfaces of her paintings, sculptures and prints, Ofelia's dark humour and irony cast a critical eye on the world around her.

'For me, art is the most intimate expression of the totality that I have lived.' Ofelia Rodríguez

Ofelia's upcoming survey show, *Talking in Dreams*, opens at Spike Island on 29 September 2023. More poignantly than before, it has become an opportunity to celebrate her life.

Image: Ofelia Rodríguez c.1990

– Ends –

For further information please contact Sam Talbot sam@sam-talbot.com / +44 7725 184630.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Spike Island Artspace Limited
Registered charity no. 1003505
Registered in England
and Wales no. 2624621
VAT no. 650 5760 40

133 Cumberland Road, Bristol BS1 6UX +44 (0)117 929 2266 spikeisland.org.uk

ABOUT THE ARTIST

- **OFELIA RODRÍGUEZ**
Ofelia Rodríguez (1946–2023) studied at the Escuela de Bellas Artes, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, and later at Yale University, New Haven and the Pratt Graphic Art Center, New York. In 1978–80, she travelled to Paris, where she studied at Atelier 17 and exhibited her first assemblages and 'magic boxes'. She settled in London in 1984. She has exhibited her work at venues such as The Queens Museum of Art, New York, USA (1988); the 5th Havana Biennale, Cuba (1995); Museo de Arte Moderno 'La Tertulia', Cali, Colombia (1995); MAMBO, Museo de Arte Moderno de Bogotá, Colombia (2008); MOLAA, Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach, California (2011, 2017 and 2021); and Instituto de Visión, Bogotá, Colombia (2017). Her work is held in collections such as ESCALA, Essex Collection of Art from Latin America, The University of Essex and MOLAA, Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach, California.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

- **ABOUT SPIKE ISLAND**
Spike Island supports, produces and presents contemporary art and culture across an 80,000 square foot former industrial building in Bristol. Its diverse artistic programme includes free major exhibitions, events and engagement activities taking place on-site and online. Championing outstanding work by emerging and underrepresented local, national and international artists, the programme enhances access to contemporary art for audiences from all backgrounds.

Alongside its public offer, Spike Island directly supports artists through new commissions, over 70 subsidised studios, and sector-leading artist development opportunities that widen access to its programme and facilities. Its Exhibition Services business supports the bespoke production and installation of artists' film and video throughout the UK and internationally. Spike Island is home to a dynamic community of hundreds of artists and creative businesses, working in flexible, affordable workspaces, alongside UWE Bristol's Fine Art department, Spike Print Studio, and café bar Emmeline.
www.spikeisland.org.uk

- Ofelia's exhibition at Spike Island is part of the West of England Visual Arts Alliance programme, supported by Arts Council England.

West of England
Visual Arts Alliance



Spike Island Artspace Limited
Registered charity no. 1003505
Registered in England
and Wales no. 2624621
VAT no. 650 5760 40