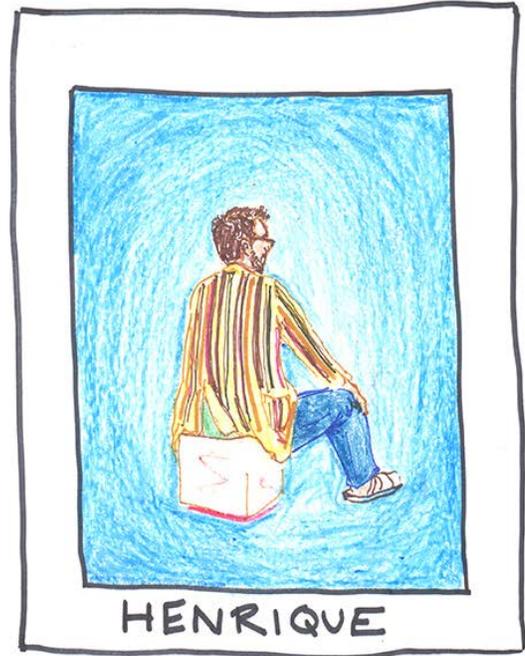
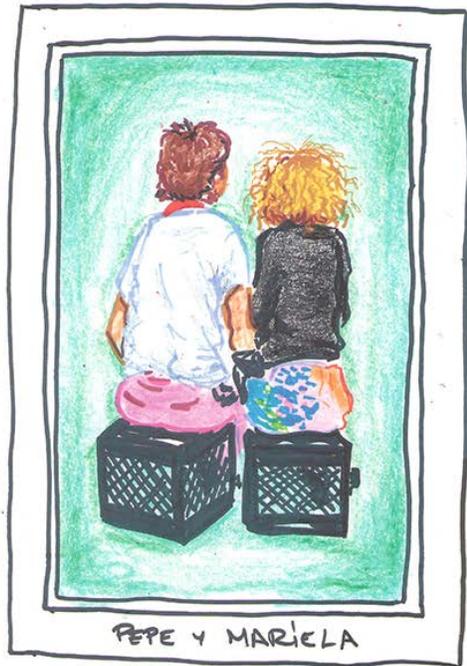




# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Jesús Bubu Negrón, *The Back Portrait*, 2012. Performed at Concha acústica de Bello Monte in Caracas, Venezuela. Courtesy of the artist and Henrique Faria, New York.

## HIGH LINE ART PRESENTS

### JESÚS "BUBU" NEGRÓN *THE BACK PORTRAIT*

**JULY 25, 26, 27, 2017**

**2 - 7 PM**

**ON THE HIGH LINE AT 17TH ST.**

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**New York, NY (July 20, 2017)** – High Line Art is pleased to present *The Back Portrait*, a new iteration of an ongoing drawing project by Jesús "Bubu" Negrón. For the project, Negrón draws the backs of willing visitors, and then gives the sitter the original drawing, keeping a photocopy for himself. Sitters are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.

In his practice, Negrón creates sculptures and performances by inserting small gestures into the everyday landscape: for example, creating a carpet out of cigarette butts collected by street sweepers, or mending a cracking bronze public sculpture with a plaster cast. Negrón is inspired by workers who are experts in one area — for example, street sketch artists, gardeners, and artisans — and sees their work not just as a paying job, but as a cultural practice. Negrón himself has worked among experts in these fields, blurring the lines between "artist" and "artisan," and questioning art world traditions.

*The Back Portrait* was originally conceived for the Fiesta de la Calle San Sebastián in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 2000, where Negrón took on the role of a street sketch artist – with a twist. Instead of drawing sitters' faces like traditional street sketch artist, Negrón solely focused on visitors' backs.





He sold each portrait on a sliding scale, depending on the financial situation of the participant. When the project travelled to Art Miami in 2002, *The Back Portrait* became Negrón's act of rebellion within the art fair, displayed among high-priced, inaccessible artworks.

### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Jesús "Bubu" Negrón (b. 1975, Barceloneta, Puerto Rico) lives and works in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Recent solo exhibitions have been presented internationally at venues including Embajada, San Juan (2016); Fondazione Pistoletto, Biella, Italy (2012); and with Creative Time, New York (2012). His work has been included in group exhibition at institutions including Instituto de Visión, Bogotá, Colombia (2016) and Travesía Cuatro, Madrid, Spain (2013). His work was also included in La Gran Bienal Tropical, San Juan (2016).

### **ABOUT HIGH LINE ART**

Presented by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art commissions and produces public art projects on and around the High Line. Founded in 2009, High Line Art presents a wide array of artwork including site-specific commissions, exhibitions, performances, video programs, and a series of billboard interventions. Curated by Cecilia Alemani, the Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art, and produced by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art invites artists to think of creative ways to engage with the uniqueness of the architecture, history, and design of the High Line and to foster a productive dialogue with the surrounding neighborhood and urban landscape. For further information on High Line Art, please visit [art.thehighline.org](http://art.thehighline.org).

### **ABOUT FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE**

Friends of the High Line raises 98% of the High Line's annual budget.

Owned by the City of New York, the High Line is a public park maintained, operated, and programmed by Friends of the High Line, in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

### **SUPPORT**

Major support for High Line Art comes from Donald R. Mullen, Jr. and The Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston. Additional funding is provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. High Line Art is supported, in part, with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council and from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA INFORMATION**

@HighLineArtNYC @TheBackPortrait #TheBackPortrait

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