

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ST. PETE

Press Release | For Immediate Release

Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg Announces

Lucia Hierro: Nuestra Silla

An Outdoor Installation



Lucia Hierro (Dominican American, b. 1987), Nuestra Silla, 2026, painted steel. Courtesy of the artist.

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (Oct. 6, 2026) — The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg (MFA) is pleased to announce *Nuestra Silla*, a new outdoor installation by New York-based conceptual artist Lucia Hierro. Translating to “Our Chair” in English, *Nuestra Silla* marks Hierro’s first public art sculpture. The monumental work, sponsored by the Collectors Circle, will be installed outside the MFA’s entrance, inviting visitors and passersby to encounter the sculpture as part of the museum’s public space.

Hierro takes as her subject the Monobloc chair, the ubiquitous one-piece plastic chair that has been mass-produced since the 1970s and is now familiar around the world. For Hierro, however, the chair is more than a mass-produced object. It evokes the lively social world of the bodegas she encountered growing up in New York, where a simple chair can signify rest, gathering, hospitality, and community. Enlarged to an immense scale and painted a vivid red, *Nuestra Silla* transforms this everyday object into a celebration of connection and shared experience.

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“Placed in front of the museum, we hope for *Nuestra Silla* to function as a gathering place while transforming the museum grounds,” said Katherine Pill, Senior Curator of Contemporary Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg.

Born and raised in New York City’s Washington Heights and Inwood neighborhoods, an area sometimes referred to as the “Little Dominican Republic,” Hierro has witnessed the profound changes brought by gentrification. Her practice draws on her personal history and examines the cultural landscapes of immigrant communities, particularly through her ongoing exploration and archiving of bodega culture.

Continuing the legacy of Pop art artists such as Claes Oldenburg (Swedish-American, 1922–2008) and Tom Wesselmann (American, 1931–2004), who transformed familiar objects and imagery drawn from popular culture into art, Hierro embraces this tradition while infusing it with personal and cultural meaning. Through the playful yet conceptually rich work of *Nuestra Silla*, Hierro invites viewers to consider the cultural histories embedded in the objects that surround us and the communities that give those objects meaning.

Lucia Hierro: Nuestra Silla opens Saturday, October 17, 2026, outside the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg.

Related Programs

[In Conversation: Lucia Hierro & Amaris Castillo](#)

Sat, Oct 17, 11 am

Artist Lucia Hierro and author Amaris Castillo come together for a dynamic conversation centered on Hierro’s work, *Nuestra Silla*. From shared Dominican-American roots to the sacred everyday space of the bodega, explore how culture and community take center stage in their craft. Before the talk, take a moment to experience *Nuestra Silla* on the museum grounds, and stop by the MFA Shop to pick up a copy of Castillo’s latest work.

About Lucia Hierro

Lucia Hierro (b. 1987) is a Dominican American conceptual artist born and raised in New York City, Washington Heights/Inwood, and currently based in the South Bronx. Hierro’s practice, which includes sculpture, digital media and installation, confronts twenty-first century

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capitalism through an intersectional lens. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from SUNY Purchase (2010) and a Master of Fine Arts from Yale School of Art (2013).

Hierro's work has been exhibited at venues including the Bronx Museum of the Arts, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Jeffrey Deitch Gallery (Los Angeles), Elizabeth Dee Gallery (New York), Primary Projects (Miami), Sean Horton Presents (Dallas), Fabienne Levy Gallery (Lausanne, Switzerland), Casa Quien in the Dominican Republic and Charlie James Gallery. Her works reside in the collections of the Guggenheim Museum New York; Museum of Fine Arts Boston; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (MCASD); Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland; El Museo del Barrio in New York City; Perez Art Museum Miami; and the JP Morgan & Chase Collection, among others. Hierro is subject of a solo exhibition titled "Moving Day" at Marc Straus Gallery and *Guggenheim Pop: 1960 to Now*, featuring Pop art from the collection. She is currently represented by Fabienne Levy Gallery in Lausanne, Switzerland and Marc Straus Gallery in New York.

About Amaris Castillo

Amaris Castillo is a Brooklyn native and daughter of Dominican immigrants. She is the debut author of *Bodega Stories*, a creative nonfiction collection of stories about the people who orbit her parents' bodega in St. Petersburg, Florida. A former newspaper reporter, her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Lowell Sun*, *Bradenton Herald*, and elsewhere. She currently works at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies and lives in the Tampa Bay area with her family.

Media Assets

High-resolution press images are available for media [download here](#).

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About the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg

As the first art museum in St. Petersburg, the Museum of Fine Arts serves as the cultural anchor of a vibrant arts city, uniting a diverse community of artists, residents, and international visitors. The museum's global collection, spanning nearly 5,000 years, acts as a catalyst for connection and conversation. By bridging historical perspectives with contemporary discourse, the museum broadens the artistic canon while elevating the voices and stories of historically marginalized artists. Within the museum's holdings are exemplary works by Georgia O'Keeffe, Claude Monet, Berthe Morisot, Auguste Rodin, Kehinde Wiley, and Élisabeth Vigée-LeBrun. The museum also houses one of the largest and most well-respected photography collections in the Southeast,

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featuring iconic visionaries such as Ansel Adams, Edward Steichen, Julia Margaret Cameron, Carrie Mae Weems, James Van Der Zee, and Aaron Siskind. Through dynamic exhibitions and inclusive programming, the museum engages with more than 100,000 people annually, including thousands of students through a dedicated partnership with Pinellas County Schools. Committed to fearless creativity, the museum fosters a welcoming environment where all are empowered to explore untold stories and challenge conventions.

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