

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Artist Apprenticeship Fellowship Selected for the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico Centro de Innovación Educativa- Collaboration with the Darryl Chappell Foundation**

**(San Juan, Puerto Rico)** The Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico (MAPR) will host Gadiel Rivera Herrera at their Centro de Innovación Educativa as an Artist Apprenticeship Fellow beginning in August 2022. Gadiel's apprenticeship is a collaboration with the Darryl Chappell Foundation, based in Washington, D.C. Through this initiative, both institutions seek to support Afrodescendant visual artists in reaching their highest potential, positively impacting their communities through art.

Through the program, the artist-in-resident will work on his own project as well as offer courses and workshops for high school and university students who live in vulnerable communities. In addition, the artist-in-resident will receive support from a mentor provided by the Darryl Chappell Foundation to further the professional development of the artist-in-resident.

“The Foundation is delighted to support the artist-in-residence program in MAPR’s Centro de Innovación Educativa,” says Chappell. “The artist-in-residence is a joint creation of the Foundation and MAPR. We believe the unique nature of this program—one full year of financial support of an artist—will open new, exciting opportunities for impact in the local community. “I can’t wait to see how the artist-in-resident will support aspiring young artists in San Juan and beyond. Personally, after being a decades-long individual supporter of MAPR, I think Gadiel is a fantastic fit and I’m delighted that he will inaugurate what I anticipate will be a tremendous ongoing program opportunity for artists year-after-year.”

“After celebrating 20 years of important work on behalf of artists on the island, the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico is opening a new decade in a powerful way with this project,” states Raquel Torres Arzola, pedagogic curator of MAPR. “Gadiel Rivera as an artist in residence under the Darryl Chappell Foundation’s Artist Apprenticeship Fellowship is a milestone in our trajectory as the most influential artistic institution in the country, a transcendent moment that will nourish the public, our artists, and our students, and will be an inspiration for generations to come.”

**About Gadiel Rivera Herrera**

Gadiel Rivera Herrera was born in 1963. He studied visual arts with a concentration in ceramics and sculpture at the San Germán Campus of the Universidad Interamericana. He later obtained a bachelor’s degree in sculpture from the Escuelas de Artes Plásticas de Puerto Rico. He has presented his work in individual and collective exhibitions in and outside of Puerto Rico. He recently participated in the exhibition *Parenthesis: 25 Years Later* at Corredor Afro in Loíza (2021). In addition to *Barro 11* (2019) at the Art Room in San Juan. He also participated in the *Afro-Antillean and Caribbean Spirituality Art Triennial: Pa ’los Santos (For the Saints)* (2017) at the Casa Escuté de Carolina. He received the Lexus Grant for his *Black Seats* project (2006) which was exhibited at the Museo de Arte Contemporaneo-PR (2007).

Rivera Herrera was part of the exhibition *Parenthesis, Eight Contemporary Black Artists*, which was presented at various venues throughout the island (Museo del Arsenal de la Puntilla, San Juan; Casa Escuté, Carolina; Casa Roig, Humacao; El Fuerte de Mirasol, Vieques, 1997). He participated in *Exploring: Discovering Cultural Diversity through Art* at the Williamsburg Art & Historical Center in Brooklyn, New York, and the *Puerto Rican Art Exhibition in Guadalupe* in Basse-Terre, on the island of Guadalupe (2001), among others.

He has offered art experiences for elementary through college students in a variety of educational and academic institutions, as well as adults in community projects. He was the recipient of artistic residencies at the Bedruna Educational Center (2016-2017) and the Efraín "Lopito" López Community Foundation-Fund (2013-2015 and 2008-2009). Since 2015 he has offered introductory courses in pottery and ceramics in the Division of Continuing Education and Professional Studies of the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus.

### **Darryl Chappell Foundation**

The Darryl Chappell Foundation is a private nonprofit organization that supports Afrodescendente visual artists in achieving their highest potential. The Foundation provides funding to support Artists-in-Residence programs, an Artists Talk Series, an online Artists Marketplace and the Fund for Community Art. The Foundation is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

### **Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico**

The Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico (MAPR) is a nonprofit organization inaugurated on July 1, 2000, and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums since 2012. Our mission is to study, investigate and preserve the artistic patrimony of Puerto Rico with the purpose of promoting innovative approaches, inclusive and participatory of artists and the communities that they serve. In 2020, the Ford Foundation included MAPR in its list of America's Cultural Treasures for its trajectory of excellence and significant impact in the cultural landscape. Located at 299 de la Avenida de Diego in Santurce, it's important and diverse collection of art housing works of Puerto Rican artists or residents of Puerto Rico since the 18th century to the present.

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