

2019 Dudley Memorial Lecture

NAO BUSTAMANTE: MULTIMEDIA AND PERFORMANCE ARTIST TALK

How the artist's body lends vulnerability in performative self-exposure

**Opening Reception: 5 PM
Lecture: 6 PM**

Nao Bustamante is an internationally known artist from Los Angeles. Her precarious work encompasses performance art, video installation, visual art, filmmaking and writing.

This lecture will take a unique view on Bustamante's performative interventions across time and media, demonstrating the ways in which her live body arrives as a mediated body historically constructed and one whose survival through mediation ensures its future vulnerability.

Bustamante emerges as what Jose Esteban Munoz has called the vulnerability artist. While vulnerability proves to be an effective and illuminating lens through which to consider Bustamante's performance, one must also confront aggression and hostility in her acts of performative self-exposure. There is something in the way that she stages distance, technology and vulnerability such that we are compelled into an immediate field of exchange with Bustamante as violating and violatable body.

Selected Past Dudley Memorial Lectures

2018

Wendy MacNaughton
Illustrator and Graphic Journalist

2009

Art Spiegelman
Author and illustrator

2005

James Cuno
Director, Art Institute of Chicago

2000

Elizabeth Catlett
Sculptor, printmaker, educator

1999

Robert Hughes
Author and illustrator

1988

Vincent Scully
Art History Professor, Yale University

**Corcoran School
of the Arts & Design**

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Multimedia and Performance Artist
NAO BUSTAMANTE



2019 Dudley Memorial Lecture

Thursday, April 4th, 2019
Reception at 5pm, Lecture at 6pm
Flagg Building, 500 17th St NW



SILVER & GOLD, 2018
Nao Bustamante is a Chicana multimedia and performance artist; in 2018, she performed and lectured at the Corcoran School. Her work encompasses performance art, sculpture, installation and video and explores issues of ethnicity, class, gender, performativity and the body. *SILVER & GOLD* is a "filmformance" inspired by queer filmmaker Jack Smith. Bustamante channels his muse, 1940s Dominican movie star Maria Montez, in a bizarre exploration of race, glamour and the silver screen.

Nao Bustamante

Nao Bustamante is an internationally known artist. Her precarious work encompasses performance art, video installation, filmmaking, sculpture and writing. Bustamante has presented in galleries, museums and underground sites globally. She has exhibited, among other locales, at the New York Museum of Modern Art, Sundance International Film Festival/New Frontier, and First International Performance Biennial, Deformes in Santiago, Chile.

She was also an unlikely contestant on TV network, Bravo's "Work of Art: The Next Great Artist." In 2008, she received the Chase Legacy award in Film and in 2012 was the Artist in Residence of the American Studies Association. In 2013, Bustamante was awarded the CMAS-Benson Latin American Collection Research Fellowship and also a Makers Muse Award from the Kindle Foundation.

Bustamante's video work is in the Kadist Collection.

About the Program

The Dudley Memorial Lecture was established in 1984 by Argentina's husband, Robert Whittier Dudley, and their six children to commemorate and perpetuate her life's work and interests. In keeping with Argentina's vision, the objective of the program is to provide memorable and enriching cultural experiences to diverse audiences.

The Dudley family established this endowment fund to secure in perpetuity the annual Dudley Memorial Lecture. The Corcoran welcomes contributions to this important fund. For information about making a gift to the Dudley Endowment Fund, please contact Susan Breitkopf, Director of Development at sbreitkopf@email.gwu.edu.



Argentina Copello Dudley,
1960
by Enrique Segura, Madrid
Oil on Canvas
Photograph: Robert & Aida
Mates

Argentina Copello Dudley

A native of the Dominican Republic, Argentina Copello brought her passion for art and art history with her to Washington when her father was named ambassador to the United States in 1943.

For a quarter of a century, she devoted her time and energy to the Corcoran. A leader in establishing the volunteer docent program, Argentina quickly became one of the Gallery's champions. She chaired the Corcoran Ball in 1976 and served as president of the Corcoran Women's Committee from 1978 - 1980. She also promoted the establishment of a permanent education department at the Corcoran, personally providing funds for staffing.

A talented artist herself, Argie, as her friends knew her, shared her knowledge and motivated others by training dozens of docents and giving hundreds of gallery tours to children and adults.

With enormous energy and enthusiasm, Argentina Copello Dudley viewed art and art education as illuminating forces that enable people to experience the world with a greater understanding. The Corcoran was fortunate to be the recipient of the devotion and talent of this very gracious lady.



Robert Whittier Dudley

Robert Whittier Dudley was born in Hanover, NH in 1912. At seventeen, Bob invested his meager savings in the post-crash market. Those funds and part-time jobs enabled him to graduate from the University of Wisconsin and the University of Michigan Law School. After serving in the Navy, he married Argentina Copello. For years, they lived in Spring Valley, where they raised six children, eventually moving to Bethesda, MD. Bob was CEO of United Masonry and Consumers Gas, and sat on the boards of a wide array of companies. He also served as a Trustee of Holton-Arms School and Board President for the House of Mercy.

Bob was a practical man, formal and business-like in speech and manner. An avid tennis player, Bob was a smooth dancer and had a beautiful singing voice. After Argie's death, he married Olga Hirschhorn.

When he was young, Bob learned from both bad and good experiences the importance of honesty, integrity, and openness in all his dealings, and worked with the same group of investors for decades. In addition to the edict "never spend principal," Bob instilled in his children the importance of family, steadfast friendships, education, and a sense of humor. As phrased on a memento from his colleagues, "His wisdom gave light."