

Memorandum

Date: July 09, 2024

To: Chair and Members
Art in Public Places Trust

From: Marialaura Leslie, Interim Director
Department of Cultural Affairs

Subject: Trust Resolution No. APPT 24-41 / Maria Martinez-Cañas, Deaccession “Años Continuos”

Trust Resolution No. APPT 24- 41

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DEACCESSION OF THE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES (APP) COLLECTION ARTWORK “AÑOS CONTINUOS” (1995) BY MARIA MARTINEZ-CAÑAS PURSUANT TO SECTION 2.2 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS ART IN PUBLIC PLACES DEACCESSION POLICY.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve the deaccession of APP collection artwork “*Años Continuos*” (1995) by Maria Martinez-Cañas pursuant to Section 2.2 of the Department of Cultural Affairs Art in Public Places Deaccession Policy.

Background

In 1995, Miami-based artist Maria Martinez-Cañas completed her first monumental public art commission *Años Continuos* at the Miami International Airport. The work combined translucent images of maps, travel documents, and cultural symbols juxtaposed to create a rich visual collage exploring issues relating to personal history, cultural identity, and the passage of time. The 40 x 40 foot mural composed of sandblasted glass panels was designed as a storefront to an open atrium built at the center of the airport’s former Terminal D to allow a smoking area for passengers waiting to board their flights. The events of September 11th compounded by the airport’s heightened need for increased security and the planned capital expansion of American Airlines, resulted in a permanent reconfiguration of all concourse check points and closure of this interior atrium space. Unbeknownst to APP, the Aviation Department (MDAD) proceeded with the modification of this area as part of the North Terminal Development Program which unified Terminals A, B, C, and D into the current Terminal D.

Upon completion of the North Terminal expansion, the artist brought to APP’s attention the misguided reconfiguration of the atrium which negates the artist original design intent. First, the artwork’s orientation was reversed to serve as a backwall to a reconfigured restaurant space that now features the artwork’s translucent back side with all text and imagery inverted and facing a blank partition wall. Furthermore, an uninviting narrow corridor was added around the work for no specific purpose other than to house service and cleaning equipment that prevents anyone from appreciating the work up close in its proper orientation. After an unsuccessful and lengthy search for an alternate airport location to relocate the work, MDAD staff has informed us that the artwork has suffered structural damage to various glass panes posing a potential safety hazard to airport users. This, combined with the eminent start of a planned renovation of this

concourse area, has resulted in the collective determination to recommend the deaccession of this artwork.

At a meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) on June 21, 2024, the PAC concurred with APP's recommendation to deaccession Maria Martinez-Cañas "*Años Continuos*" on the following grounds:

2.2.3 LACK OF SUITABLE SITE. The artwork is not, or is only rarely, on display due to lack of a suitable site.

2.2.4 SITE ALTERATION. For site-integrated or site-specific artworks, the site for which the artwork was specifically created is structurally or otherwise altered and can no longer accommodate the artwork, is made publicly inaccessible as a result of new construction, demolition, or security enhancement, or has its surrounding environment altered in a way that significantly and adversely impacts the artwork.

Pursuant to Section 2.2 of the Art in Public Places Deaccession Policy, it is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve the deaccession of "*Años Continuos*" by Maria Martinez-Cañas.