

# Memorandum



**Date:** September 12, 2023

**To:** Chair and Members  
Art in Public Places Trust

**From:** Michael Spring, Director  
Department of Cultural Affairs

**Subject:** Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-56 / Lydia Rubio “Blue Note” and “Notes of the Sea” Artwork Accession

## **Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-56**

RESOLUTION APPROVING ACCESSION TO THE MIAMI-DADE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COLLECTION OF ARTWORKS “BLUE NOTE” AND “NOTES FROM THE SEA” FROM ARTIST LYDIA RUBIO IN CONNECTION WITH THE RESTORATION OF HER ARTWORK AT TERMINAL F - PORTMIAMI AS DESCRIBED BELOW (FROM – PORTMIAMI- TERMINAL F PUBLIC ART FUNDS):

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve the accession to the Miami-Dade Art in Public Places Collection of two (2) artworks by Lydia Rubio, “Blue Note,” and “Notes of the Sea,” pursuant to the Art in Public Places Accession and Deaccession Policy as outlined in the Miami-Dade County Procedure Manual 358 and Section 2.11.15 of the Miami-Dade County Code.

### Background

At a meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) on July 20, 2023 it was noted that Art in Public Places (APP) has successfully completed the relocation and reconfiguration of installation artwork *All Night Long We Heard Birds Passing* by artist Lydia Rubio at Terminal F, PortMiami (Carnival Cruise Line). The relocation was done with the full cooperation and oversight of the artist, a long time Miami resident now based in Hudson, NY. The work was originally commissioned in 2002 and reconfigured in 2022.

Due to the diligent oversight of the project, a balance of contingency funds remained, allowing APP to acquire additional works from the artist. APP staff recommends two (2) works selected from a portfolio of available works in the price range:



Lydia Rubio  
*Blue Note*, 2020  
20 x 20 x 1 3/4”  
Oil on wood with natural pigments (metallic paint,  
charcoal)  
(Do not frame)

This work is derived from a series developed by Rubio inspired by the improvisational structure of jazz music. Diagonal lines and geometric fields divide the canvas, allowing for the inner structure of the square to emerge, a harmonic proportion that is consistently found in Rubio's work. Smaller, more free-flowing elements activate the surface that is reminiscent of music notes. The deep blue color can be seen throughout the artist's later Sky Series as a primary feature.



Lydia Rubio  
*Notes of the Sea*, 2021  
Oil and wax on panel  
20 x 20 x 1.5"  
(Float away from wall 1 inch – do not frame)

One of the original works of the series *Notes of the Sea*, this work represents the colors of Miami's subtropical waters. This group of colors emerged in Rubio's work in 2015 and is related to her interest in the structure and improvisation of jazz. A wax surface allowed for layering of color. The work features spirals, dots, bisecting lines, and organic forms related to patterns found in marine life. In the top section, the geometries suggest the rigging of a sailboat. Semi-circular shapes are repeated throughout Rubio's works to create a visual language or lexicon, part of what the artist refers to as "the alphabet of gestures."

After careful review and discussion, the PAC unanimously recommended accessioning the two (2) works by Lydia Rubio into the Art in Public Places collection.

APP staff recommends approval of Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-56 for accession of these two (2) artworks into the Miami-Dade Art in Public Places Collection pursuant to the Art in Public Places Accession and Deaccession Policy as outlined in the Miami-Dade County Procedure Manual 358 and Section 2.11.15 of the Miami-Dade County Code.