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## **TORONTO ARTIST HONOURS HAITIAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST AT THE 2ND GHETTO BIENNALE**

### **Karen Miranda Augustine to Collaborate on Memorial Project with Women Artists in Port-au-Prince**

Toronto, ON: November 8th, 2011 — Toronto artist [Karen Miranda Augustine](#) will be representing Canada in the [2nd Ghetto Biennale](#), Port-au-Prince, from December 7th - 18th, 2011. Her memorial art project, [The Three Erzulies / Ezilis yo Twa](#), will be created in collaboration with two regional artists and will honour three female community ancestors.

The Ghetto Biennale is an unfunded event. All participating artists are relying on their own resources and community support to participate. Individuals who wish to support Karen Miranda's participation in the 2nd Ghetto Biennale can visit [The Three Erzulies Campaign page on IndieGogo.com](#) — a crowdfunding site that supports independent artists.

Known for her portraits of cultural icons, Karen Miranda's low-relief paintings, assembled from found objects, degraded photography and brush and paint, fit comfortably with the Haitian sculptures created out of recycled and everyday materials as found in Grand Rue.

"The idea is for each artist to pick a woman who held deep significance to the Grand Rue district or to the greater Haitian community," explains Karen Miranda. "For myself, I have chosen [Magalie Marcelin](#), one of many leading women's rights advocates killed in the 2010 quake. I liked that she was grassroots, that she created shelters for battered women, that she helped rape victims. What I've read about her has touched me in a very deep place. And that she studied in Canada for some time — that Canadian connection makes her a perfect choice for me to bring to this project."

With the involvement of approximately 100 artists, filmmakers, writers and scholars in the 2nd Ghetto Biennale, Karen Miranda's art project remains to be the only one to specifically engage with women artists living in the Grand Rue district of Port-au-Prince. [The Three Erzulies](#) collaboration will begin upon the artist's arrival early December.

Ghetto Biennale is curated by [Atis-Rezistans](#) (a.k.a. the Sculptors of Grand Rue) who, after being denied entry visas and government sponsorships to participate in biennales and museum shows, decided to bring the greater art world to them. Unlike traditional Western biennales, Atis-Rezistans extends an invitation to Western and non-Western artists to come to Haiti, make work with local artists and produce an exhibition. The 1st Ghetto Biennale was born in 2009.

#### **ABOUT KAREN MIRANDA AUGUSTINE**

[Karen Miranda Augustine](#) is an artist and writer whose works have exhibited in Canada, the United States and the UK. Her works have been published and cited in a range of books and publications, including *The Queer Encyclopedia of the Visual Arts* (Cleis Press) and *The Art of Reflection: Women Artists' Self-Portraiture in the Twentieth Century* (Columbia University Press). She will be an artist-in-residence at USF Verftet in Bergen, Norway, in 2012. She lives and works in Toronto.

**You can support this project until December 1st: [IndieGogo.com/TheThreeErzulies](http://IndieGogo.com/TheThreeErzulies)**

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The Three Erzulies / Ezilis yo Twa is supported by:

