

## **Artist Statement**

As humans we are perpetually influenced by our surroundings, while finding ourselves amidst a constant conversation with nature and every word spoken is a mold for our decisions.

Through a lens-based practice, Mateo narrates evolving conversations between light and geometry involving the environment and anatomy as his muse. Drawing inspiration from nature, the artist organizes sculptural compositions that respond to the environment in which they are located, dancers are then invited to choreograph and perform movement based on their perception of the compositions. Improvisation always being a key ingredient, the compositions are perpetually ephemeral. The environment changes, influencing sculptural decisions made by the artist; movement progresses based on this change therefore altering the state of the composition and presenting a new perspective for the artist to make new sculptural decision and continue the evolving cycle.

Light and geometry surround us, alternating perspectives are shared, and reality is experienced. There is no right nor wrong, there just is. Color, as a representative of light has clever way of infiltrating the subconscious mind and influence patterns of decisions. Everything is always possible.

## **Bio**

Colombian born, Miami raised, Mateo is a lens-based Artist. Keeping in mind the concept of collaboration as civilized progress, Mateo enacts his practice as a collective collaborative conversation between himself and his subjects with the intent of presenting multiple perspectives on a reality that would otherwise go unnoticed. Working with dancers and utilizing anatomy as geometry, the artist captures movement and presents contradictory compositions that invite the viewer to question perception and engage with the compositions. This further emphasizes collaboration as audience become active participants in the conversation. The environment is an essential ingredient to the artist's work, as nature is the essence of our human existence. Through captured movement, Mateo aims to unravel new possibilities for collective progress.

His work has been exhibited at MOCA, New World Gallery, Cisneros-Fontanals Art Foundation, Mindy Solomon Gallery and Coral Gables Museum. Mateo received his BFA from University of Florida through New World School of the Arts. He is currently participating in an Artist Residency at the Bakehouse Art Complex in Miami.