

LUIS DE JESUS LOS ANGELES

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GABRIEL SANCHEZ: *Lamparilla*

January 10 – February 28, 2026

Opening Reception: January 10, 4:00-7:00 P.M.

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Luis De Jesus Los Angeles is pleased to announce **Gabriel Sanchez: *Lamparilla***, the artist's third solo exhibition with the gallery, on view from **January 10 – February 28, 2026**. An opening reception will be held on **Saturday, January 10 from 4:00–7:00 p.m.**

"*Lamparilla*" is the name of a famous street in Old Havana, and it also references the small oil lamps people rely on during the frequent *apagones* or blackouts. Symbolically, it carries the idea that every Cuban holds their own inner light—sometimes literal, sometimes internal—despite darkness, scarcity, and repression. In *Lamparilla*, Gabriel Sanchez draws inspiration from friends, family members, and journalistic and documentary sources to examine the impacts of suppression, longing, separation, exile, and diaspora.

Through intimate portraits, documentary street scenes, and a sculptural installation, Sanchez foregrounds humanity, vulnerability, and the quiet resilience embedded in daily experience. The exhibition speaks to the physical and psychological struggles that impact contemporary life in Cuba and pays tribute to the brave acts of survival against the weight of repression, scarcity, censorship, and fear under an oppressive state.

The exhibition juxtaposes refined figurative oil paintings of friends and family in moments of vulnerability, contemplation, and forward-looking reflection with "sketch" paintings memorializing the July 11, 2021, protests, also known as "11J." Painted in rapidly executed burnt umber oil washes on unstretched canvas, the paintings recall the immediacy of documentary footage. The images feel hot, unstable, and alive, capturing moments the state sought to erase. Their austerity echoes the material scarcity of the island, rejecting luxury in favor of urgency and truth.

An immersive installation of five standing lamps made from welded chain and arranged on wooden pallets evokes both raft and island. Each lamp becomes a figurative body—its height suggesting a member of a family or community—while the coiled chain stems signal the constraints endured by Cubans today. A warm glow illumines hand-painted shades depicting more scenes of repression, confinement, and suffocating heat. Together, the lamps reference the "interior life" of Cuba: the hidden spaces where truth is protected, obscured, or punished.

Gabriel Sanchez's *Lamparilla* offers an urgent yet hopeful gesture: an insistence that these stories are seen, and that art can serve as witness, archive, and call to action. Through this, Sanchez continues to ignite storytelling in his paintings and sculptures to share the importance of solidarity, courage, and visibility.

Gabriel Sanchez (b.1993, Miami, FL) lives and works in Miami, FL. Sanchez holds an MFA in painting from the New York Academy of Art, NY, and a BFA from the University of Colorado, Boulder, CO. Solo exhibitions include *Helter Skelter* (2024), Mindy Solomon Gallery, Miami; *They Devoured Everything*, David B. Smith Gallery, Denver, CO; *Silence (Silencio)* (2022) and *Mirando al Mundo* (2021), both at Luis De Jesus Los Angeles. Selected Group exhibitions include *Let Us Gather in a Flourishing Way*, Buffalo AKG Art Museum, NY (2026) traveling to: Des Moines Art Center, IA, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, CO, Phoenix Art Museum, AZ, and the Frye Art Museum, Seattle, WA (dates TBA); *Exit 26* (2022) at Monti 8, Latina, IT; *Shattered Glass* (2021) presented by Jeffrey Deitch during Art Basel Miami Beach, FL; *Stay with Me* (2020) at Luis De Jesus Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA; *Figures* (2019), Lora Schlesinger Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; as well as *Synchronicity*, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO; *Artmix*, Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, Boulder, CO; and *Kings Exhibition*, Visual Arts Complex, Boulder, CO. Sanchez's work is in the collection of the Xioa Museum, Rizhao, China; Kaiser School of Medicine, Pasadena, CA; the Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, OH, Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection, Palm Beach, FL; Bill and Cindy Gautreaux Collection, Kansas City, among other private collections.

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