



WAVE HILL SUNROOM PROJECT SPACE

June 22 - August 11, 2024

ROGER FERNEY-CORTÉS

Johny Paleta

ROGER FERNEY-CORTÉS

Born in Los Angeles, CA
Lives in Brooklyn, NY

Maquette of *Johny Paleta*, 2024
Wood, metal, spray paint, acrylic
mirror, PLA 3D print
Courtesy of the artist

Roger Ferney-Cortés invokes the iconic “paletero”—a roving street cart vendor of popsicles and ice cream—through his interactive mixed media sculpture, *Johny Paleta*. Standing in contrast to the popular image of American nurseryman Johnny Appleseed, who according to myth, indiscriminately spread apple seeds wherever he went, Ferney-Cortés’ titular folk hero creates exultant experiences built on the idea that art overlaps with everyday life.

Fabricated to scale on functioning wheels, the sculpture is composed of a retractable mirrored infinity cube visible through a series of apertures shaped after flora at Wave Hill. Visitors are invited to peer into a microcosm that reflects and refracts their faces, bodies, surroundings and light, capturing a fleeting chronicle of a moment in place. Also on view is an assemblage chair sculpture composed of a found roll up gate and various maquettes of *Johny Paleta* that reference sources from literature, art history, ancient architecture, modern design and urban utilitarian materials that underscore the weight of a mythologized past.

While the popsicle was first created in the United States in 1905, paletero culture has deep roots in Latin America and is a symbol of the outdoors, warm weather, childhood nostalgia, street entrepreneurialism and cultural resiliency. The paletero has also had a profound impact on popular culture and consumer economy, as well as conceptual art practices. Activated by the artist, visitors and passersby, *Johny Paleta* navigates space through its relationship to the corporeal and embraces chance encounters. Here, the artist blends ever-shifting ideas about identity, migration and social mobility through the transference of visual and cultural knowledge to create a provocative confluence of ‘latinidad’ and American spatial order. Ferney-Cortés will at times traverse the grounds of Wave Hill and its immediate neighborhoods, offering an artwork that reflects the beauty of people in their surroundings and an homage to the street vendor culture of immigrant Latinx communities in the Bronx and beyond.

Roger Ferney-Cortés is a Colombian American interdisciplinary artist, architect and educator. He has exhibited his work at the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts and Kickstarter Arts Features in Brooklyn, NY, and SCI-Arc Gallery and Pacific Design Center in Los Angeles, CA, among other venues. Ferney-Cortés is a visiting assistant professor at Pratt Institute School of Architecture and co-founder of the Brooklyn-based design collaborative Stop 1 Projects. He earned a BA in art history from the University of California at Santa Barbara and an MA in architecture from the Southern California Institute of Architecture.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS: Sat, Jun 22, 2–3 PM, Meet the Artists: Roger Ferney-Cortés and Katherine Sepúlveda. Sat, Jun 22, 3 PM; Sat, Jul 20, 3 PM and Sat, Aug 10, 1 PM, Ferney-Cortés activates *Johny Paleta* on the grounds of Wave Hill.

Organized by Curator of Visual Arts Rachel Raphaela Gugelberger, the Sunroom Project Space provides an opportunity for emerging artists in the New York City area to develop and present a site-specific project as a solo exhibition. The 2024 season features, consecutively: Tao Leigh Goffe, Katherine Sepúlveda, Roger Ferney-Cortés, Dario Mohr, Soeun Bae, Jordany Genao and Stephanie Beck.

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WAVE HILL
4900 Independence Avenue
(public entrance)
Bronx, NY 10471
718.549.3200 wavehill.org
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#rogerferneycortes

Curator of Visual Arts:
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