Activate: Market Street 17
Dimelo
Juan Gutiérrez, Ernesto Rodríguez, & Wali Vidal

April 7 - May 26, 2018
75 & 77 Market St.

Opening Reception
April 7th, 2018
7-10 pm at Gallery Aferro
73 Market Street

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Dimelo
Curated by Jo-El Lopez
Juan Gutiérrez, Ernesto Rodríguez, & Wali Vidal

Presented by Gallery Aferro, with the support of RBH Group

Gallery Aferro’s “Activate: Market Street:” is a year-round public art project transforming hundreds of linear feet of vacant storefront windows in Newark’s historic downtown district. Storefronts owned by RBH Group on Market Street between Washington and University Streets are activated with installations, films, animation, neon sculptures, kinetic and interactive art, and performative public programming from local, national and international artists. Supported by RBH Group, and created by Gallery Aferro, the project delivers arresting, unexpected, and highly memorable experiences with contemporary art directly to the public, whether residents, students, workers or first-time visitors.

www.activatemarketstreet.org
In the Spanish language DIMELO means “tell it to me” or in the colloquial terms: “talk to me”. Each of these artists born in Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic, use traditional and modern artforms to describe a new moment of globalization, dismantling stereotypes and inviting street viewers inside Caribbean culture.

Juan Gutiérrez studied plastics Arts at Escuela de Bellas Artes, and maintains ongoing studies at Altos de Chavon in Dominican Republic, which is associated with Parsons, The New School for Design. He has been exhibiting since 1996, in solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally. He was the recipient of a prize given by the Governor of Maryland, for his support, through artmaking, of women with AIDS.

Ernesto Rodríguez is a multidisciplinary artist, working in materials such as wood, clothes, metal, mud, etc. He has exhibited and traveled extensively including at Centro Eduardo Leon Jimenez, Dominican Republic, the Bienal Nacional de Artes Visuales, and in Rome, Italy. Rodriguez is also considered as one of the most important ceramic artists of the Dominican Republic. He is also a cultural manager and has worked on educational projects in different places including Rafey Prision, located in Santiago de Los Caballeros, Community Center Centro Cumunal Puertorriqueño, located in Puerto Rico and at workshops given in New York City, NY, USA.

Wali Vidal was born in Santiago in 1982. From a very young age he was interested in arts, participating in workshops with prominent artists. During 2001 to 2002 he was introduced to the technique of lost wax by the artist Leo Núñez. Later on from 2003 to 2005 Wali Vidal took ceramics with the artist Ernesto Rodríguez, and in the fall of 2006 he completed a workshop in Criticism of Artworks at the San Alejandro School of Art, Habana, Cuba. At the end of the same year he returned to Dominican Republic where he took engraving, installation and video art clinics with the artists Carmelo Sobrino, Pepón Osorio and José Alejandro Restrepo at Centro León, Santiago. To formalize his studies, Wali applied to the School of Design Altos de Chavon in La Romana, Dominican Republic obtaining an A.A.S. degree in arts in 2010. He has participated in national and international art projects including at the Center of Culture of Santiago and at the Theater House of Santo Domingo, Lex56 Art Studio, New York, NY, Centro León, Santiago, Center City Gallery, NJ, and the Bronx Museum, New York, NY. In 2010 his painting “La Escolta” became part of “Genesis and Trajectory”, Permanent Exhibition at Centro Leon, Santiago.