

Artspace

8 Artists to Watch in March 2018
By Jillian Billard and Shannon Lee — March 6, 2018

CARISSA RODRIGUEZ

SculptureCenter, New York

January 29—April 2



Carissa Rodriguez, Image courtesy of Red Bull Arts

After an extended hiatus from exhibiting her work (having worked primarily as an art dealer since from the mid-90s into the early 2000s), New York-based artist **Carissa Rodriguez** re-emerged on the map at the Whitney Biennial in 2014, collaborating on a work with performance artist on-the-rise Ei Arakawa. Arakawa and Rodriguez's Biennial piece appeared as a subversion of the notion of paradise, and a meditation on marginality and mainstream American culture. Maybe you remember those “portable islands” that could be worn as hats by multiple people at once? Now 47, Rodriguez has her first solo exhibition, titled *The Maid*, in her native New York City, at the **SculptureCenter** in Long Island City. In the show, Rodriguez explores the social conditions under which art is created, and examines the role of the artist as an end in itself. In addition to installation works, the exhibit features a number of new video and photographic works. Inspired by a 1913 short story by Robert Walser in which a maid searches endlessly for a lost child until she eventually dies (how awful!), **Rodriguez highlights the cycle that essentially “timeless” physical art objects undergo as time passes, and explores theories subjecthood. Rodriguez finds a particular interest in time: specifically that which is “suspended, potential, and actualized.”**