The current exhibition of paintings and drawings, Invisible Presence, by Cuban-born American artist Yovani Bauta, explores resilience in the face of daunting obstacles. The artworks depict intimate portraits of immigrants, homeless, the elderly and even a stray dog, in a heavy impasto of varying degrees of emotion. Politically irreverent in nature and often considered marginal or “outsiders” by society, the subjects in the work render themselves invisible. In an unassuming portrayal, their suffering and misfortune is far too real for the everyday person to comprehend, thus paralyzing any form of helpful action; falling upon empathy and pity.

Bauta’s project, Head in the Bathroom, focuses on the so-called privacy of public restrooms and challenges the traditional means of public exhibition installation. A series of portraits are placed at eye level on the bathroom walls of the Museum, creating an unnerving sense of being watched. The uncertainty creates a false sense of security and challenges the promise of privacy that a bathroom typically offers.