

"Memory, Refraction and Time"
Presentation of an artwork by Gabriel Vallecillo Márquez (Honduras)
¡n[s]urgênc!as I Artist-in-Focus 2019

::. Memoria, Refracción y Tiempo
(Memory, Refraction and Time)
Gabriel Vallecillo Márquez
Honduras
Video installation
Tegucigalpa, 2010 - Berlin, 2019

A game of mirrors: childhood, adulthood, old age. <<Dass dir halte der Mann, was er, als Knabe, gelobt>> (a german poet sentenced once in a poem dedicated to her venerable grandmother, in her 72nd Birthday). "That you hold the man, what he, as a boy, praised".

Memory, Refraction and Time is a video installation representing "intimate reflections (perhaps even unconscious) of our lives composed of scattered fragments of ideas, memories and experiences which give shape to our perceptions and our future. The work reflects upon how we are constructed simultaneously through memory and time, drawing a parallel between the past, the present and the future. Our refractions between those realms constitute our (un)conscience and sense of being, our becoming".

Originally conceived as a relational art piece created from childhood memories through a social artistic methodology in his hometown Tegucigalpa (Honduras, 2010), the artist Gabriel Vallecillo Márquez revisits this work 9 years later for a different context. In this new version of the piece, Márquez departs from a poem, but one he wrote himself. The biographical text is recited simultaneously by voices in several languages but his mother tongue, filling the vaults of the basement space at ZK/U with "emotions written from loneliness and search, from the need to hold onto something or someone to believe".

With a high economy of means (projector, stones, white veils) a 6 video-channel installation plays in loop an optical illusion vehiculated through liquid imagery inside a dark room: a new, unfamiliar and foreign context to which the (poetic) subject moves. A game displaced narratives reflects in the visitor the ages of man (childhood, adulthood, old age), mirroring a question: *Did you hold the man, that you, as a boy, praised?*

Paz Ponce
Curator of ¡n[s]urgênc!as (Agora Collective e.V.)

This artwork has participated at:

III Honduras Biennale.
Galería Nacional de Arte,
October 2010, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Curators: Edith Medina (Ex Teresa Museum, MX), Alma Ruiz (MOCA Museum, USA), Gustavo Larach (New Mexico University, HN).

VII Centralamerican Isthmus Visual Arts Biennale
Teatro Ruben Darío, Managua, Nicaragua, 2010

Link to the work: <https://vimeo.com/17366920>

About the artist:

Gabriel Vallecillo Márquez (Honduras). His work includes several disciplines: poetry, video poetry, video art, live audiovisual, video mapping and documentary film. Gabriel has published four books of poetry, has been included in several anthologies and his work of video art has been exhibited in art biennials in Ecuador, Panama, Nicaragua and Honduras, as well as exhibitions in Cuba, Italy, USA, Spain, Italy and Honduras. He has written and directed the documentary Liberating a Prison for the AlJazeera network. He has worked as cultural manager of several cultural festivals, editor of the magazine Gargantúa and written several essays in specialized academic journals.

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Artist statement:

As an artist, I am interested in investigating current political-social phenomena and linking them with ancestral elements that give an account of the historical struggle of the peoples to whom these actors belong. The murder of Berta Cáceres inspires this work, its sowing - as they popularly call it - and not her death, is the one that speaks here, she converted into a nature that reminds us: "Awake humanity. There is no time to lose.". "The river told me" is the voice of the earth asking for healing, stop the ecocide in which we are blindly submerged. Through computerized resources and audiovisual experimentation I seek to merge and echo ancestral knowledge, covered with poetics of protest to make that call, we are beings born of water and land.

About the frame of his stay in Berlin:

Gabriel Vallecillo Márquez is one of the fellow artists at ZK/U - Zentrum für Kunst und Urbanistik Berlin for the time: 28 Feb - 30 Nov 2019. During his stay in Berlin, Márquez will develop the artwork "The river told me so", contributing to different thought-processes concerning the concept of <<Ecologies of Protest>> (Ecologías de la protesta), the new research strand developed by Agora Collective's platform: in[s]urgências 2019, curated by Paz Ponce.

As the guest artist-in-focus of in[s]urgências 2019, Márquez participates in a mediation program which departs from workshop practice and artistic research as a context of collective encounter and learning, connecting him with local professionals and other artists through the organization of panel discussions, participatory workshops, professional dinners, interviews and studio visits.

His residency stay at ZK/U is funded by the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Europe under the frame of the Fellowship-Program Weltoffenes Berlin 2019. Gabriel's stipend results from a cooperation between Agora Collective e.V. & ZK/U Zentrum für Kunst und Urbanistik.

in[s]urgências is a Berlin based platform for socially conscious artistic practices & activist positions from Latin America, organized by Agora Collective e.V. It facilitates meetings, orientation and connection formats with local experts of the sector with the aim of integrating newcomers into the professional network of Berlin, and helping them to position their artistic expression in the creative context of Germany.

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