Zigzag Incisions

Press Release

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A twofold exhibition at CRAC Alsace and SALTS curated by Victor Costales and Elfi Turpin 19 February - 31 March 2017 Opening Reception: 18 February 2017, 5pm

"...circles, circles; innumerable circles, concentric, eccentric; a coruscating whirl of circles that by their tangled multitude of repeated curves, uniformity of form, and confusion of intersecting lines suggested a rendering of cosmic chaos, the symbolism of a mad art attempting the inconceivable."

Joseph Conrad, The Secret Agent.

An epigraph stolen from a book, far from troubled border cities.

Kites, kites; innumerable kites,

psycho-acid pentagons, some with mad ninja turtle smiles, held by invisible lines of varied intensities and force. Their vernacular structures are jerked by gusts of tropical winds, feeling the storm coming, lowering the skies above the city. They are being pushed against the grey-green moss walls of a decrepit modernist building. The kites hit the walls, stick to them, cover the helpless concrete humidity in a wild kaleidoscopic arrangement of overlapping fractals and colours. The minor myth of a kite assembled with the half-forgotten ritual of a modernist wall by random trajectories of the monsoon winds. Fat rain drops tear the paper, rip it down, leaving few fragments of flying geometries attached to the dirty surfaces, glued there for some time. Maybe geological time.

There is nothing inconceivable in the art of crossing the flat surface of an evening public plaza walking in zigzags, observing with sideways glances what's going on on the peripheries of that wide and desolate space. It's just a method, another way of practising the tangents. Walking in zigzag is to inscribe chance on the low-impact geometries of any Latin American city, forest or desert. Just like the fine black lines painted on a ceramic bowl, mapping the nearby rivers, so if you happen to pass by and find the bowl left on the table of an open house, you'll know where the dwellers went fishing. Provided that you know how to read the code. A matter of proximity.

Back to the plaza, zigzagging closer to its variable perimeters, if you move your eyes to the left for a fraction of a second, you might catch two men, hand in hand, performing a perfect tango, with style and elegance beyond description. If you look slightly to the right in the same no time, you might fix the pirouettes of an insect (most probably a fly) flying out from the rear window of a cab, leaving a half drunk passenger gesticulating frantically towards the driver, telling a story of another A to B through Z parkour. Chances are you will get caught in one of the fly's loops. You just have to be very very good at glancing sideways, be sure to practise often.

But what happens in Asunción doesn't stay in Cocosolo. The wind that just finished flipping through the book on geometry Professor Amalfitano left hanging in his yard on a clothesline, in that unfortunate readymade city, to see if an axiom can learn something from real life and vice versa – that wind will carry the concept of strange attractors* to the cacti growing in the mountains surrounding Lima. Some hours later someone will cook the cactus and will see the fractals projected on things in the night as signs of a different language, amassing in front of those almond shaped eyes.

We watched the passing lights, as in Charly's^{**} post-dictatorship anthem: red, green, yellow, green, fuchsia. We crossed the plaza, the colours, the humans and some other humans. We were not strangers.

V. C., January 2017

Please note that the first part of *Zigzag Incisions* is on view at CRAC Alsace until 14 May 2016. More info: www.cracalsace.com



SALTS Hauptstrasse 12 CH-4127 Birsfelden info@salts.ch +41 61 311 73 75

List of works:

Outside:

Felipe Mujica Huecos, 2016 (Holes) Canvas, sewing 127 x 75 cm Courtesy the artist and Die Ecke, Santiago de Chile and von Bartha, Basel

Inside from left to right:

Jorge Satorre *That Other (Shawl)*, 2014* Ikat textile 81 x 43 cm Manufactured by José Jiménez Courtesy the artist and Labor, Mexico City

Tania Pérez Córdova *Two Points Connected by a Line or a Line Separating Two Stories (Forty Minutes, Twenty Five Minutes and Forty Nine Seconds),* 2017 Bronze Dimension variable Courtesy the artist / Production CRAC Alsace

Julia Rometti Studies for Winter Stories during Springtime, 2016 Thread on watercolor paper 33,1 x 25,5 cm Courtesy the artist and joségarcía, Mexico City

Seulgi Lee SOUP _ Bâle, 2017 Wall painting, local vegetarian soup, bowls made by ceramicist from Altkirch, saucepan and hot plate. Courtesy the artist Production CRAC Alsace Thanks to Sylvie Fabian and Gilles Desplanques

On the floor:

Falke Pisano Learning in Proximity, 2015 Wood, printed paper 58 x 20,5 x 20,5 cm Courtesy the artist and Ellen de Bruijne Projects, Amsterdam On the window:

Blinky Palermo

Courtesy the artists

Acrvlic

23 x 46 cm

Blaues Dreieck, 1969 / 2009

Reactivated by Pierre Leguillon

Edit Oderbolz In the Shadow We Put Together a House, 2017 Newspaper 55,6 x 33,1 cm Courtesy the artist



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Seulgi Lee *U* : Even a monkey can fall from a tree (= Even an agile person can make mistakes), 2017 Silk and coton 195 x 155 x 1 cm Realized in collaboration with Nubi Korean, quilt maker Courtesy the artist / Production CRAC Alsace Thanks to Suk Hee Jeong and Sung Youn Cho

Ximena Garrido-Lecca Aleaciones con memoria de forma, 2016 (Alloys with shape memory) Copper 190 x 133 cm Courtesy the artist and 80m² Livia Benavides, Lima

On the plinth:

Armando Andrade Tudela *Estrella Distante,* 2017 Twisted iron bar, plastic, metallic chain Courtesy the artist and Francesca Minini, Milan

Between CRAC Alsace & SALTS:

Tania Pérez Córdova & Francesco Pedraglio *Two Points Connected by a Line or a Line Separating Two Stories,* 2017 Car journey, a story told from memory Courtesy the artists Production CRAC Alsace

*Translation of the text:

21 years ago, on the 1st of May, we found the river dry. We thought of the end of the world and people went crazy. The liter was 5 reales and was sold for 2 sucres. The rental of the horse was 50 sucres. We made a 200-sucre profit for each trip.