

URBAN IMPULSES: LATIN AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHY FROM 1959 TO 2016 14 JUN – 6 OCT 2019

Press Release: 26 April 2019

Urban Impulses embraces half a century of Latin American photography, from 1959 to 2016, through more than two hundred images selected from the extensive collection of Leticia and Stanislas Poniatowski. Featuring the work of over seventy photographers and artists, the exhibition includes well-known names such as **Alberto Korda** (1928-2001, Cuba), **Graciela Iturbide** (b.1942, Mexico) and **Sergio Larrain** (1931-2012, Chile), as well as lesser known and emerging practitioners such as **Eduardo Longoni** (b. 1973, Argentina) and **Beatriz Jaramillo** (b.1955, Colombia).

Offering a diversity of artistic approaches, from street documentary to collage, the show traces a constellation of significant historical events that have marked the region: the Cuban revolution, military dictatorships in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Paraguay, along with mass social movements which, in still unconsolidated democracies, have given way to repression. Daily resistance to oppression has been a part of the agenda of many artists in the exhibition, and activism in both the artistic and political fields have been manifested in and through the spaces of the urban street. Here a hybrid iconography emerges where photography exists in tandem with other media of mass circulation such as graphics, photo-copying and print media, often involving the marking, cutting and defacement of images where the notion of appearance and disappearance exist in tandem.

The exhibition is curated into two distinct but complementary themes: *Shouts* and *Pop-ular*. *Shouts* considers photography's role not only in documenting identities and presences, but also to explore absences: in the face of kidnappings and forced disappearances carried out by authoritarian regimes, photography has been a weapon against silence. Public spaces and the city walls have also played an important role: when pen and paper, laws and rights, courts and judges have failed to obtain justice, the walls of the cities have taken on a life of their own. And photographers have portrayed these walls, covered with the slogans and cries of protest of those demanding political, social, and economic recognition, and reflecting the anger and cynicism, the hopes and frustrations of the cities' residents.

In *Pop-ular*, artists' mine the tropes of mass media and their manifestation in public spaces. Since the 1960s, as Latin America has undergone rapid development, advertising images have diversified and multiplied, marked by the rapid transition to a consumer society. The first widespread use of colour photography was in advertising, and the richness of pop culture imagery, often associated with commerce and advertising, marks the visual identity of the Latin American metropolis. Signs, patterns and typographies, often created by self-taught hands, confer on the display windows an almost innocent beauty. Pop culture in Latin America has a meaning adapted to its context, going far beyond a commentary on patterns of consumption and commodities. It is related rather to popular culture, closer to a vernacular aesthetic, with a capacity to create a symbiosis out of external pop influences. Latin America is a pastiche of the past and the present, of the local and the international.

The Photographers' Gallery
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The Photographers' Gallery is a registered charity no. 262548. The Photographers' Gallery Limited is registered in London no. 986208. VAT registration no. GB645332251.

This exhibition provides an important counterpoint to the dominant Western and North American histories of photography. Latin American identity is a paradox forged in diversity: every country has its particularities, but most of them have struggled with the conflicting claims of nationalism and regionalism in the face of constant attempts at cultural and economic colonization by “First World” countries. The works here express the contradictions of a region which, in its hybrid condition, finds itself torn between the pre-Hispanic world, the post-colonial experience, and the capitalist drivers that have implacably invaded the process of consolidation of its cities. Chaos acts in them as an emancipating force.

The exhibition is curated by María Wills and Alexis Fabry.

A dual-language full-colour catalogue is available online and in TPG’s Bookshop priced at 39.00€

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For General information and enquiries about The Photographers’ Gallery, including their archive, Print Sales Gallery or Bookshop contact:

Celia Graham-Dixon on + 44 (0) 207 087 9346 or email celia.g.dixon@tpg.org.uk

Notes for Editors

The full list of exhibiting artists is as follows:

Carlos Aguirre (b.1948, Mexico), Luiz Alphonsus (b.1948, Brazil), Édgar Álvarez (b.1947, Colombia), Yolanda Andrade (b.1950, Mexico), Jaime Ardila (b.1942, Colombia), Ever Astudillo (1948-2015, Colombia), Álvaro Barrios (b. 1945, Colombia), Juan Enrique Bedoya (b.1966, Peru), Fernando Bedoya (1952, Peru), Enrique Bostelmann (1939-2003, Mexico), Bill Caro (b.1949, Peru), Anselmo Carrera (1950-2016, Peru), Jesús Reyes Cordero (b.1956, Mexico), Armando Cristeto (b.1957, Mexico), François Dolmetsch (b.1940, UK/Colombia), Felipe Ehrenberg (1943-2017, Mexico), Virginia Errázuriz (b.1941, Chile), Paz Errázuriz (b.1944, Chile), María Elvira Escallón (b.1954, Colombia), José Alberto Figueroa (b.1946, Cuba), Fernell Franco (1942-2006, Colombia), René Freire (b.1952, Mexico), Carlos Gallardo (b.1954, Chile), Héctor García (1923-2012, Mexico), Paolo Gasparini (b.1934, Venezuela), Lourdes Grobet (b.1940, Mexico), Billy Hare (b.1946, Peru), Alejandro Hoppe (b.1961, Chile), Alvaro Hoppe (b.1956, Chile), Helen Hughes (b.1948, USA-Chile), Graciela Iturbide (b.1942, Mexico), Beatriz Jaramillo (b.1955, Colombia), Mario García Joya (nee Mayito, b.1938, Cuba), Alberto Korda (1928-2001, Cuba), Sergio Larrain (1931-2012, Chile), Adriana Lestido (b.1955, Argentina), Diego Levy (b.1973, Argentina), Eduardo Longoni (b.1959, Argentina), Marcos López (b.1958, Argentina), Héctor López (b.1955, Chile), Pablo López Luz (b.1979, Mexico), Ayrton de Magalhães (1954-2017, Brazil), Eniac Martínez (b.1959, Mexico), Agustín Martínez Castro (1950-1992, Mexico), Sebastián Mejía (b.1982, Colombia), Ernesto Molina (b.1952, Mexico), Luis Molina-Pantin (b.1969, Venezuela), Pablo Ortiz Monasterio (b.1952, Mexico), Mario Cravo Neto (1947-2009, Brazil), Viki Ospina (b.1948, Colombia), Adolfo Patiño (1954-2005, Mexico), Claudio Pérez (b.1957, Chile), Ataúlfo Pérez Aznar (b.1955, Argentina), Jaime Razuri (b.1956, Peru), Santiago Rebolledo (b.1951, Colombia), Miguel Rio Branco (b.1946, Brazil), Herbert Rodríguez (b.1959, Peru), Miguel Ángel Rojas (b.1946, Colombia), Jesús Ruiz Durand (b.1940, Peru), Osvaldo Salerno (b.1952, Paraguay), Francisco Smythe (1952-1998, Chile), Carlos Somonte (b.1956, Mexico), Milagros de la Torre (b.1965, Peru), Nicolás Torres (b.1957, Peru), Juan Travník (b.1950, Argentina), Sergio Trujillo (b.1947, Colombia), Jorge Vall (b.1949, Venezuela), Pedro Valtierra (b.1955, Mexico), José Luis Venegas (b.1944, Mexico), Leonora Vicuña (b.1952, Chile), Jaime Villaseca (b.1949, Chile), Enrique Zamudio (b.1955, Chile), Helen Zout (b.1957, Argentina), Facundo de Zuviría (b.1954, Argentina). **Biogs available upon request.**

Curator biogs:

Alexis Fabry

Curator of Latin American photography and publisher, Alexis Fabry (b. France) created Toluca Editions, with Olivier Andreotti, in 2003. Fabry is the curator of both the Anna Gamazo de Abelló collection and the Leticia & Stanislas Poniatowski collection. He has co-curated several exhibitions, including, recently :*Southern Geometries, from Mexico to Patagonia*, at the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain in Paris (2018-2019); *Noches Fieras 1970-2017*, at the Museo Universitario del Chopo in Mexico (2018); *Pulsions Urbaines* (Leticia & Stanislas Poniatowski Collection), at the Espace Van Gogh in Arles, as part of the international photography festival Les Rencontres d'Arles (2017) and *Transiciones. Diez años que trastornaron Europa* (Motelay Collection), at the Círculo de Bellas Artes in Madrid, as part of the international photography festival PhotoEspaña (2016). Fabry works as an adviser for several private collections and is also the deputy artistic director of Hermès Maison.

María Wills Londoño

María Wills Londoño (b. Colombia) is an art researcher and curator. Her major exhibition projects offer reflections on the unstable condition of the contemporary image and alternative views of urban themes in Latin America. Among the exhibitions she has co-curated are *Urbes Mutantes*, *Latin Fire*, and *Fernell Franco-Cali Clair-obscur*, *Protographies: Oscar Muñoz* presented at the International Center of Photography in New York, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain in Paris, Círculo de Bellas Artes in Madrid (PHotoESPAÑA), Centro de la Imagen in Mexico City, Jeu de Paume in Paris and the Museo de Arte del Banco de la República in Bogota among others; she was in charge of temporary exhibitions at the last institution from 2009 to 2014. She founded the Visionarios program at the Instituto de Visión, with the mission of highlighting essential figures in Colombian conceptual art. She is currently curating the Biennale de L'image – Momenta 2019 in Montreal with the project: The life of things.

The Photographers' Gallery

The Photographers' Gallery opened in 1971 in Great Newport Street, London, as the UK's first independent gallery devoted to photography. It was the first public gallery in the UK to exhibit many key names in international photography, including Juergen Teller, Robert Capa, Sebastiano Salgado and Andreas Gursky. The Gallery has also been instrumental in establishing contemporary British photographers, including Martin Parr and Corinne Day. In 2009, the Gallery moved to 16 – 18 Ramillies Street in Soho, the first stage in its plan to create a 21st century home for photography. Following an eighteen months long redevelopment project, the Gallery reopened to the public in 2012. The success of The Photographers' Gallery over the past four decades has helped to establish photography as a recognised art form, introducing new audiences to photography and championing its place at the heart of visual culture. www.thephotographersgallery.org.uk

Visitor Information

Opening times: Mon – Sat, 10:00 - 18:00; Thu, 10:00 - 20:00; Sun, 11:00 - 18:00

Admission: £5 / £2.50 and then free from 17:00 daily.

Address: 16-18 Ramillies Street, London W1F 7LW

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THE PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALJERY

PRESS IMAGES

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Image 1
Ataúlfo Pérez Aznar
Disappeared, Calle 6 between 46 and 47, La Plata, 1983
© Ataúlfo Pérez Aznar
Courtesy of the artist



Image 2
Álvaro Hoppe
Calle Alameda, Santiago, 1983
© Álvaro Hoppe
Courtesy of the artist



Image 3
Fernando Bedoya
Pinochet, 1987
© Fernando Bedoya
Courtesy of the artist



Image 4
Agustín Martínez Castro
From 10 to 11 p.m., Mexico City, 1985
© Agustín Martínez Castro Estate
Courtesy of the artists estate



Image 5
Paz Errázuriz
Untitled, from the series Tango, 1988
© Paz Errázuriz
Courtesy of the artist



Image 6
Pablo Ortiz Monasterio
Flying low, Mexico City, 1989
© Pablo Ortiz Monasterio
Courtesy of the artist



Image 7
Eduardo Longoni
The Battle of the Plaza de Mayo, Buenos Aires, 20 December 2001
© Eduardo Longoni
Courtesy of the artist



Image 8
Alberto Korda
The Quixote of the street lamp, Cuba, 1959
© Alberto Korda Estate
Courtesy of the artists estate



Image 9
Alejandro Hoppe
Funeral of Rodrigo Rojas de Negri, Santiago, 1986
© Alejandro Hoppe
Courtesy of the artist



Image 10
Eniac Martínez
Fifteenth Birthday Party in Ciudad Neza, Mexico City, Mixtecos Norte/Sur series, 1989
© Eniac Martínez
Courtesy of the artist



Image 11
Pablo Ortiz Monasterio
If You Shoot, I Shoot, Mexico City, 1989
© Pablo Ortiz Monasterio
Courtesy of the artist



Image 12
Eduardo Longoni
A Mother of the Plaza de Mayo, Buenos Aires, 1981
© Eduardo Longoni
Courtesy of the artist



Image 13
Herbert Rodríguez
Equis, 1985
© Herbert Rodríguez
Courtesy of the artist



Image 14
Carlos Somonte
Untitled (Aquileo Valtierra González), Prisoners series, Mexico, 1997
© Carlos Somonte
Courtesy of the artist



Image 15
Pedro Valtierra
Teachers Being Beaten, 1984
© Pedro Valtierra
Courtesy of the artist



Image 16
Alberto Korda
Heroic Guerilla Fighter, Cuba, 1960
© Alberto Korda Estate
Courtesy of the artists estate

Press information

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