

IX BIENNIAL OF VISUAL ART OF NICARAGUA RECYCLING MEMORY: RECAPTURING THE LOST CITY

Chief Curator: Omar López-Chahoud

Guest Curators: Agustín Pérez Rubio, Oliver Martínez Kandt

Coordinators: Juanita Bermúdez, Gladioska García

Sponsors: Ortiz Gurdian Foundation / BANPRO

OPENING RECEPTION TUESDAY, MARCH 18 2014, 6:30 PM

Centro de Arte FOG-BANPRO | Edificio Málaga, Plaza España, Managua Nicaragua

March 18 - April 12, 2014

The ninth edition of the Visual Arts Biennial of Nicaragua, curated by Omar López-Chahoud, is attaining special importance in its history: it now has five key locations in Managua, two in León and two in Granada. The theme this year, *“Recycling Memory: Recapturing the Lost City”* prompts a new reading of the events that marked the course of the country’s recent history.

The majority of the Nicaraguan population is under 40 years old, so it has a very short memory as it didn’t experience the events that truly marked the destiny of those older; events that had a repercussion on all strata of society. In particular, Managua, the country’s capital, was flattened by earthquakes three times: in 1885, 1931 and 1972. Old Managua, which was like a large town of medium-sized constructions in which the majority of the population knew each other, had a special charm, but all that remains of it is in the memory of those who lived it intensely. Between 1977 and 1979, the entire country went through a period of constant agitation that culminated in the overthrow of the Somocista dictatorship, established in the country since 1937. The years of the Revolution (1979 to 1990) irreversibly marked the lives not only of those who stayed but also those who went into exile. Those who stayed to experience it, who dreamed of constructing the new man and had the feeling that their ideals had been reached, instead had to put up with periods of rationing given a scarcity of products generated by the harsh economic embargo decreed by the US government, which also financed the armed struggle, or counterrevolution, aimed at bringing down the Sandinista regime. For those who left, it was equally hard to have to abandon the land where they had been born and in some cases to leave part of their family behind, as well as face a new country and new culture. In 1990 the Sandinista National Liberation Front lost the presidential elections to Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. Between then and today, even more significant changes have taken place in all spheres: political, economic and social.

Little remains of what was Old Managua; the geological faults that cross it from north to south, and in some cases from east to west, obliged the New Managua to expand beyond what had been the old city’s urban center, generating a series of commercial nuclei or habitations isolated from each other, forcing people to move from one place to the other on wheels rather than by foot, as before. Lost forever was the delight of leaving work and strolling down Roosevelt Avenue in Managua to meet up with friends at a soda fountain or go window shopping.

This edition of the Biennial wants to recover the memory of that city we all miss. It wants to decipher the mystery of why, when one asks for an address in Managua, the answer is: “From where the Teodolinda Mansion gate was...” or where something else was that is no longer. For that reason, we can’t find a better way to ask for the contribution of the contemporary artists so that, through their art they can give new, current, fresh and fair responses charged with renewed hopes.

Juanita Bermúdez

NATIONAL GUEST ARTISTS

Marcos Agudelo / Darwin Andino, Colectivo 23 / Fredman Barahona / Carlos Barberena / Ernesto Cardenal / Cristina Cuadra / Alejandro de la Guerra / Espira-Adrede / Milena García / Maruca Gómez / José González / Claudia Gordillo / Ricardo Huevo / Darling López Salinas / Juan Carlos Mendoza, Colectivo 23 / José Montealegre, Colectivo 23 / Consuelo Mora, Colectivo 23 / Moisés Mora, Colectivo 23 / Luis Morales Alonso / Raúl Quintanilla / Ernesto Salmerón / Marisa Tellería / Leonel Vanegas, (1942-1989) / Kelton Villavicencio

INTERNATIONAL GUEST ARTISTS

Nadege Quintallet (France) / Joaquín Segura (Mexico) / Daniel Borins (Canada) / Jennifer Marman (Canada) / Andrea Galvani (Italy - USA) / Teresa Margolles (Mexico) / Danny Zavaleta (Fuga Alternativa, El Salvador) / Victor Rodríguez (Fuga Alternativa, El Salvador) / Silvia Zayas (España) / Javier Tellez (Venezuela - USA) / Irvin Morazan (El Salvador – USA) / Victoria Fu (USA) / Yeni Mao (USA) / La Toya Ruby Frazier (USA) / Leah Dixon (USA) / Christian Dietkus (USA) / Ghislaine Fremaux (USA) / Williamson Brasfield (USA)

BIBLIOGRAPHY PRESENTATION

Raúl Quintanilla, Artefacto Magazine and Patricia Belli, EspiRA/La Espora, both at Centro de Arte FOG-BANPRO. Marcos Agudelo, Bibliography on Nicaraguan art and photos of the 80s and Códice Art Gallery, Books and catalogues about Nicaraguan visual arts, both at Centro Cultural Pablo Antonio Cuadra (Hispaner Bookstore).

VIDEO PROJECTION ON OLD MANAGUA

Bernard Gordillo, East Symphony, on the earthquake of 1931. Luna Films (María José Álvarez and Martha Clarissa Hernández), Blanco organdí. Camila Films (Florence Jaugé), Cinema Alcázar and Hombre de una sola nota. Ramiro Lacayo Deshón, El corredor de los escombros. At Centro Cultural Pablo Antonio Cuadra (Hispaner Bookstore)

FOR INFORMATIONS

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OPENINGS CALENDAR			
DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	PLACE
Thursday March 13	6:30 pm	Sculptures by Ernesto Cardenal	Galería Codice, Managua
Friday March 14	5:30 pm	Sólo fantasía... Performance by Fredman Barahona – Avenida Bolívar	Rotonda Hugo Chávez - Malecón
Saturday March 15	07:30 pm	Intervención urbana/Mapping	Parque Darío- en el parque central, Managua
Sunday March 16	5:30 pm	La Caída, performance by Alejandro de la Guerra - Estacionamiento Multicentro Las Américas'	Bello Horizonte
Tuesday March 18	7:30 pm	IX BAVNIC Oficial Opening - Centro de Arte Fundación Ortiz-Gurdián/BANPRO	Edificio Málaga – Plaza España
Wednesday March 19	07:30 am	Performance by Silvia Zayas, "São Tomé Revisitado" - (CCEN)*	Primera entrada a las Colinas, 7 c. al Este
Thursday March 20	7:30 pm	American and Nicaraguan Artists Projects Opening Ceremony - (CCNN)**	Semáforos de la UCA, 700 m al Norte, 100 m al Oeste
		Colectivo Veinti3 Exhibition Opening Ceremony - (CCNN)**	Semáforos de la UCA, 700 m al Norte, 100 m al Oeste
Friday March 21	9:30 am – 3:00 pm	Video and Performance Workshop by Silvia Zayas (Spain) - Centro Cultural de España en Nicaragua (CCEN)*	Primera entrada a las colinas, 7 c.al Este
	7:30 pm	Exhibition Opening Ceremony "Retomando la ciudad perdida" - Centro Cultural Pablo Antonio Cuadra (Libería Hispaner)	Rotonda Ruben Darío 1 c. al Oeste y 1 c. al Sur
Saturday March 22	10:00 am	"Leonel Vanegas Paintings" Exhibition Opening Ceremony	Palacio Nacional de la Cultura, Managua
	4:00 pm	Proyecto Desafi, preservación de la ruinas	Iglesia San Sebastián, León
	6:00 pm	Videos of North American Artists - Centro de Arte Fundación Ortiz-Gurdián	Casa Deshon, audiovisual room, León
Sunday March 23	11:00 am	"Maruca Gómez Paintings and Sculptures" Exhibition Opening Ceremony	San Francisco Monastery, Granada
	4:00 pm	Visit to the social art project in the community of El Pantanal	Granada
Thursday March 27	06:30 pm	Exhibition Espira/Adrede	Sala restaurante, EL SEGUNDO

*Centro Cultural de España en Nicaragua (CCEN)

**Centro Cultural Nicaragüense Norteamericano (CCNN)