

miguel calderón

disasters of peace

may 26 – 30, 2017

sonora 128=>athens

art athina 2017

faliro olympic pavilion

athens, greece

#miguelcalderón

#sonora128

#sonora128inathens

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For the sixth iteration of Sonora 128, the once fixed billboard exhibition space in Mexico City will pack its bags for a special pop-up residency during the Art Athina, Athens. Flexible methods of communication, both trans-and-intra-borders, have often played an important role in kurimanzutto's nomadic history and mobile tactics for information dispersal. Visible for one weekend only from May 26–30th 2017, outside the Faliro Olympic Pavilion, the artist Miguel Calderón will present a new work, *Disasters of Peace* (2017), for Sonora 128, Athens.

A striking image of a snake crawling across an arid landscape, with its head deliriously caught in a can, Calderón continues an ongoing series of personal, snapshot stories. As Calderón states, "When I did nothing but explore the back alleys of my neighborhood, my mother always told me that boredom was the mother of all vices. During a trip to the outskirts of Mexico City with my falconer friends, I came across a snake that had stuck its head inside a beer can. It moved endlessly trying to escape. The falconer's theory was that mice drink beer, a mouse went inside the can, fell asleep drunk and the snake ate it. Trying to swallow, it couldn't move backwards and got stuck. This snake could no longer bite its own tail. We cut the can open, there were no traces of mice. I looked at the snake and asked myself - is boredom the mother of disaster?"

Shying close to mythological symbolism, and captured with a comical, yet almost melancholic dark humor, this work continues Calderón's fascination with personified nature. Often recording the bittersweet edge of reality with a special brand of heightened rebelliousness, his views of a world on the brink of madness cut to the heart of an intimate darkness. Frequently cast from the perspective of an outsider, Calderón's work highlights the macabre complexity of man's position in the universe

Miguel Calderón (b. 1971) currently lives and works in Mexico City, Mexico.

about the artist

Miguel Calderón (Mexico City, 1971) explores themes that range from falconry to violence and corruption in Mexico, from youth and family dynamics, to the supernatural. Although his work covers a broad range, it is unified by an ever-present sense of theatricality, the macabre, and a touch of the fantastical. He creates works from a mashup of vernacular references, employing a variety of medium, including video, photography, sculpture and painting. His pieces often combine a dark sense of humor with certain playfulness and Pop culture references, such as music videos, tabloids, and rock music. These influences are absorbed and reconfigured into works that explore deep social and personal territories. For Calderón, it is important that art be accessible; he came of age as an artist in Mexico during the 1990s, when he was a key figure in the development of a young alternative art scene in Mexico, associated with the non-commercial art space he co-founded called *La Panadería*. In his practice he considers the divide between the rarified world of “high art” and the day-to-day, deftly weaving together a combination of mockery, foolishness, social critique and sincerity of emotion to create an image that resonates on many levels.

Calderón received his BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1994. He has been the recipient of the Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation Grant & Commissions program (2013), The MacArthur Fellowship for Film and New Media (2000), and the Bancomer/ Rockefeller Fellowship (1995).

His most important solo exhibitions include: Miguel Calderón: Color Bleed, Rochester Art Center, Rochester, New York (2012); Miguel Calderón, solo project, Casa América, Madrid, Spain (2010); Conversations with a Tropical Vulture, with George Kuchar, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco (2010); Bestseller, Panorámica, Museo Tamayo, Mexico City (2009); Ridiculum Vitae, La Panadería, Mexico City, Mexico (1998). Additionally, he has participated in group shows at the following institutions: Museo Amparo, Puebla, Mexico (2014); Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California (2014); The Foundation Cartier, Paris, France (2013); Museo Universitario de Arte Contemporáneo (MUAC), Mexico City, Mexico (2011); The Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, California (2011); Museo Universitario del Chopo, Mexico City, Mexico (2010); Museum Moderner Kunst (MUMOK), Vienna, Austria

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(2009); National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, Poland (2007); Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, United States (2007), PSI Contemporary Art Center, New York, United States (2002), among others.

Calderón has participated in various biennials, including: 7th Internationale Photo-Triennial, Esslingen, Germany (2007); Bussan Biennale, Bussan, Korea (2006); Sharjah Biennial 7, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (2005), Yokohama Triennale of Contemporary Art, Yokohama, Japan (2005); ARCO, Madrid, Spain (1998)



Miguel Calderón, *Disasters of Peace*, 2017.

Courtesy of the artist and kurimanzutto, Mexico City.

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