

# PÁRAMO

**MEXIPUNX**

Rubén Ortiz Torres

September 06 - 24, 2018

[Link to Press Release](#)



### **RUBÉN ORTIZ TORRES | BIO**

Rubén Ortiz Torres was born in Mexico City in 1964. Educated within the utopian models of Spanish republican anarchism, he soon confronted the tragedies and cultural clashes of the post-colonial third world. After giving up the dream of playing baseball in the major leagues, he decided to study art. He first attended one of the oldest art schools in the Americas—the Academy of San Carlos in Mexico City—and later one of the newest and more experimental—CalArts in Valencia, CA. After enduring Mexico City’s earthquake and pollution, he moved to LA with a Fulbright grant to survive riots, fires, floods, more earthquakes, and Proposition 187. During all this, he has been able to produce artwork in the form of paintings, photographs, objects, installations, videos, and films. He is part of the permanent Faculty of the University of California, San Diego. He has participated in several international exhibitions and film festivals. His work is in the collections of The Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid and others.



MEXIPUNX, 2018  
Exhibition view  
Páramo, Guadalajara, México



*Fumadores*, 1984  
Gelatin silver print,  
15 15/16" x 19 7/8"



*Me parece que vi un lindo gatito, 1985*  
Gelatin silver print



Gelatin silver print

KODAK TX 5063



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▷ 9A

¿Qué Pasa?, 1985  
Gelatin silver print



*The Clash*, 1989  
Gelatin silver print



## **MEXIPUNX, 2018 EXHIBITION**

Originally exhibited in 1984 at the Mexican Council of Photography as part of a series titled *Jesús y los Mutantes*, *MEXIPUNX* is a project that intimately documents the punk scene in Mexico City in the 1980's. More so, this series of photographs traces how the subculture became a formative influence in the development of the artist's own creative identity.

As both a participant in the punk scene and a visual artist, Ortiz Torres's works differ widely from the photojournalist documentation of punk youth and function instead like a personal visual essay that narrates his own experiences within the subculture. What emerges from this body of work is an image of punk not as a musical genre but rather as a cultural phenomenon that is at once local and global. This exhibition encompasses an expanded presentation of this body of work. Alongside the iconic photographs, a series of seldomly seen drawings the artist made of subjects and a selection of Super8 videos will also be included. Together, these works give deeper insights into this important historical moment and into the early work and practice of this renowned artist.

# RUBÉN ORTIZ TORRES

Born in Mexico City, lives and works in Los Angeles, California

Ortiz Torres (b. 1964) explores the social and aesthetic transformations related to transculture and globalization. His interests and techniques have varied widely over the course of his career, they always reflect the environments that have shaped his identity. Ortiz-Torres has produced such diverse works as feature films, 3D videos, paintings, sculptures, kinetic installations, photo-collages, and performances, all having to do with his personal experience of the world. "Our identities are fluid and ever-changing," he once said. "The human cognitive process is an unstable constellation of webs, fusions, and hybrids." Though he was trained as a realist painter, he became known in the 1980s as a photographer and printmaker influenced by Mexico City's punk scene. He attributes the more recent proliferation of cars in his work to experiences in Los Angeles and a childhood affinity for car models.

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