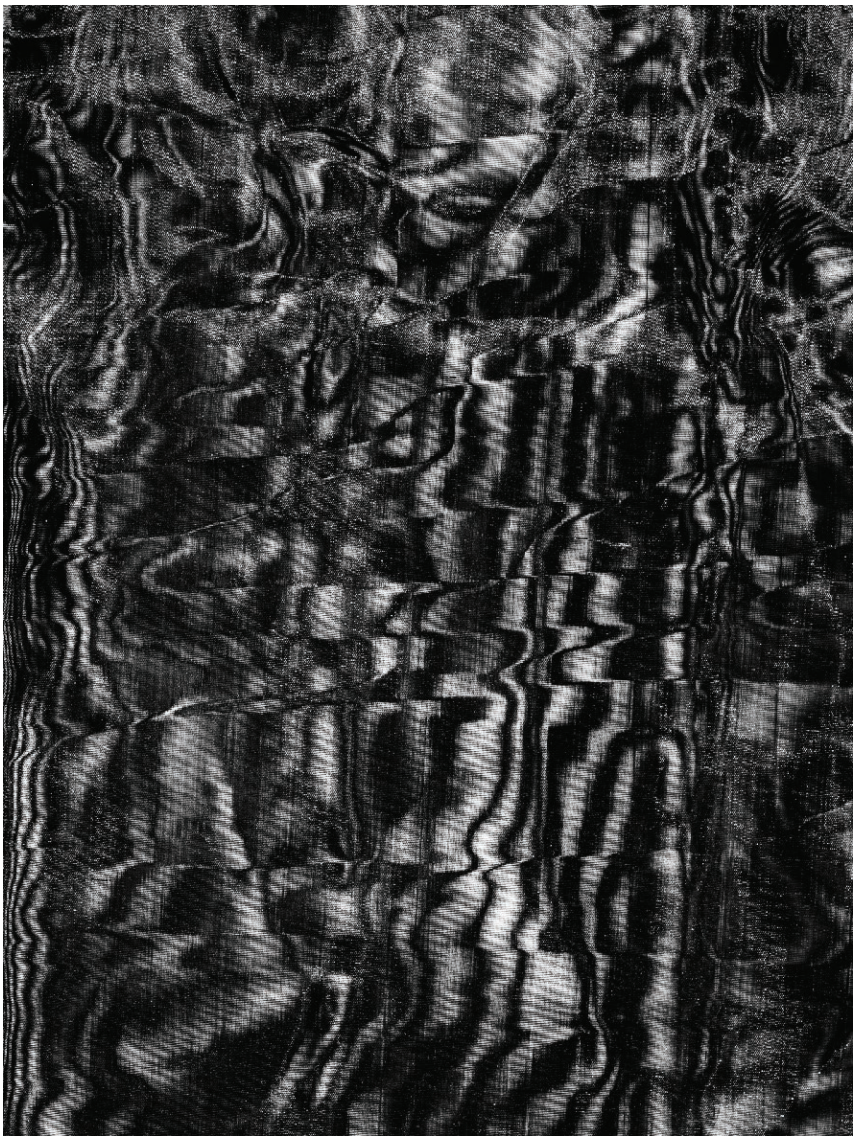
PÁRAMO



# 3.ABSTRACT MACHINES ORBIT THE CONTEMPORARY MIND

## Isaac Contreras

6 sept, 20:00 Hrs
Del 7 sept al 5 nov 2016

Av. Hidalgo 1228,
Col. Americana – C.P. 44160
Guadalajara, Jalisco, México

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PÁRAMO

Páramo is pleased to present 3. Abstract Machines Orbit the Contemporary Mind, the first solo exhibition of Isaac Contreras in the gallery. The sculptural production of Contreras uses various methods to investigate what the artist describes as "the appearance of things", a term that refers to the appearance of the materials and objects that he uses. Ranging from regular commonly found forms and industrial standards, Contreras considers the positioning of these objects when they are exhibited as they appear in the public sphere.

"I'm interested in the notion of appearance because it summarizes two of the most fundamental issues that are found in my work. First, the relationship between the media and the images they produce. I am referring to their significance and use, its inherent qualities, their form and, to a certain extent, the formal eloquence based on a material relationship which I'm interested in making evident. Second, the notion of appearance involves a game of the visible that allows me to act with ideas of visibility or distribution, to think about what a work does in terms of operation."

3. Abstract Machines Orbit the Contemporary Mind (3AMOTCM) constitutes the third chapter of a series of texts and works where Contreras investigates pattern recognition systems, a branch of artificial intelligence that allows machines to analyze data, establish patterns of behavior and predict auditory or visual responses.

For 3AMOTCM, Contreras presents The Grand Moiré an aluminum, iron and plexiglass sculpture that uses a visual interference effect known as "moiré" in which the overlay of patterns produces a reading error that often occurs in the process of capturing video or digital images. In addition, the exhibition includes: a new series of Vector Spaces, steel structures formed by hand in variable configurations and hinged together by custom-made magnets, a continuation of the series Unlocking Patterns, which uses unlocking patterns of smartphones' screens as a pictorial gesture, and a recent video entitled Pattern Recognition that records the process of translation of some works by the artist with a virtual application, producing a visual effect and audible feedback between psychedelia and concrete poetry.

The diverse mediums used in the exhibition, however, have in common the mediation of the photographic camera. Contreras uses the camera as a "conceptual tool" to designate a sightline for the construction of a cyclorama-wall that corresponds to the field of vision of a smartphone. His work is then inserted within this boundary, re-orienting our perception of vision and experience.

"I depart from photography as a conceptual tool, i.e. as a system that describes a type of action and not solely as a medium. This includes, for example, considering the exhibition moment as a frame, in the sense of selecting a single capture of a continuous process. I also use the documentation as a form to process images, to use the camera to find pseudonyms or translations in my works or, in the specific case of this exhibition, to design the museography according to the field of view of a smartphone, which is quite possibly the most currently used technology for the capture and distribution of images in art."

A limited edition take-away posters, to be installed on windows, documents the first participation of Isaac Contreras in Páramo.

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PÁRAMO

Isaac Contreras (1984, Culiacán, Sinaloa) lives and works in Geneva, Switzerland. Contreras' work explores material and conceptual constraints as mechanisms to finding form with photography, installation and sculpture. Contreras graduated from UABC in Tijuana, he is a former fellow of the Young Creator National Fellowship FONCA 2010–2011 and the Baja California State Program for the Arts 2010–2011. He also studied at SOMA in Mexico City 2012–2013 and Triangle France Marseille in 2014. Recent exhibitions include: III Poly/Graphic Triennial of San Juan (Puerto Rico, 2012), Sarai Reader 9: The Exhibition (New Delhi, 2013), and Lulennial: A Slight Gestuary (Mexico City, 2015).

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PÁRAMO

El gran Moiré, 2016
Aluminum, plexiglass and net
108.27 x 64.96 x 1.97 “
275 x 165 x 5 cm.

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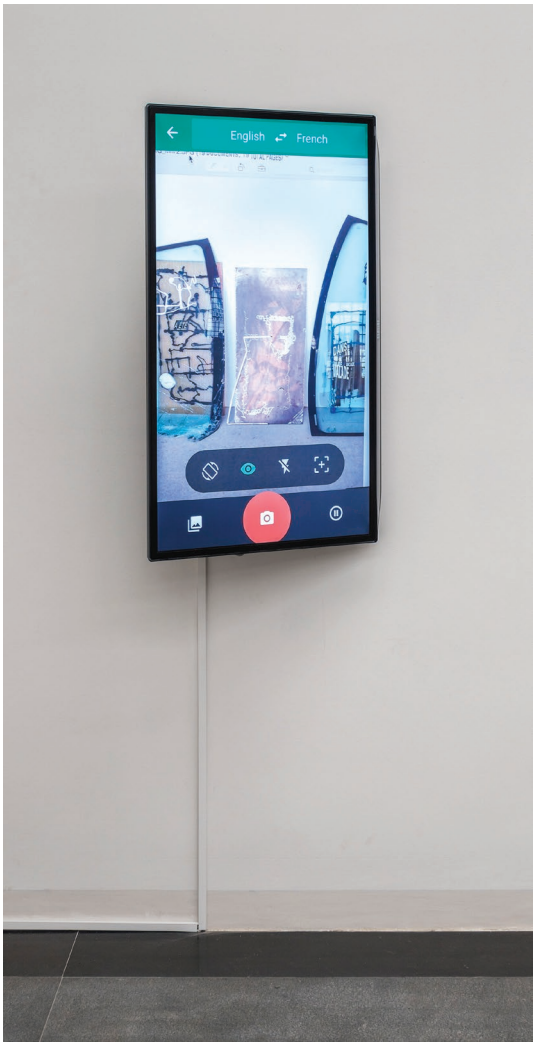


Pattern recognition, 2016
Video HD
Duration:
20 min.

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PÁRAMO

Vector space 6, 2016
Steel, magnets, acrylic, paint, varnish
58.27 x 19.29 x 16.54 “
148 x 49 x 42 cm.

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PÁRAMO

Vector space 7, 2016
Steel, magnets, acrylic, paint, varnish
19.69 x 16.54 x 3.15 "
50 x 42 x 8 cm.

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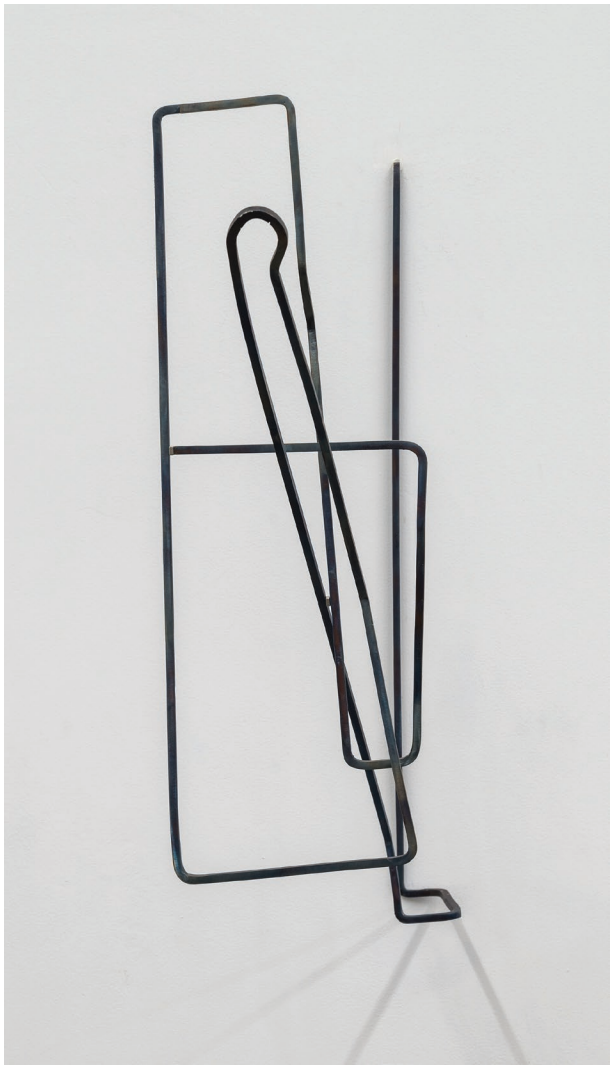

Vector space 8, 2016
Steel, magnets, acrylic, paint, varnish
28.35 x 10.24 x 28.35 “
72 x 26 x 72 cm.

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PÁRAMO

Vector space 9, 2016
Steel, magnets, acrylic, paint, varnish
58.27 x 8.27 x 23.62 ”
148 x 21 x 60 cm.

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PÁRAMO

Vector space 10, 2016
Steel, magnets, acrylic, paint, varnish
69.69 x 14.17 x 27.56 “
177 x 36 x 70 cm.

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Vector space 11, 2016
Steel, magnets, acrylic, paint, varnish
60.63 x 9.45 x 11.42 ”
154 x 24 x 29 cm.

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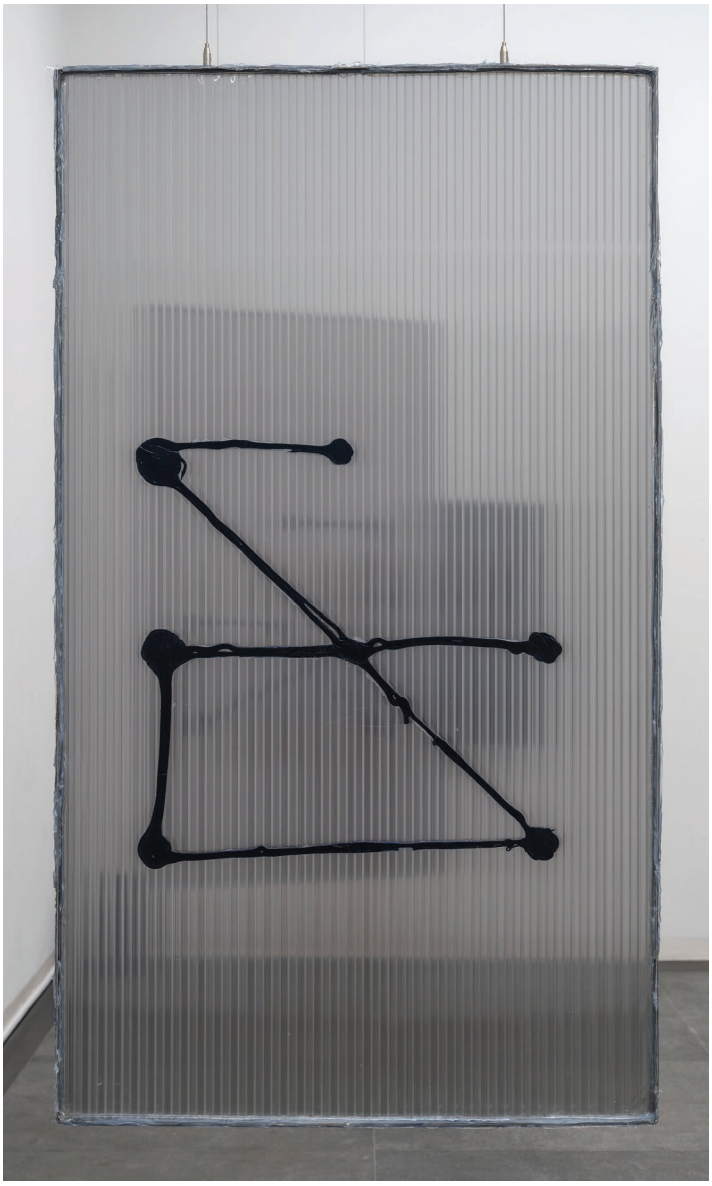

Unlocking pattern 6, 2016
Silicone,
Dimensions:
33.86 x 59.45 x 1.57 “

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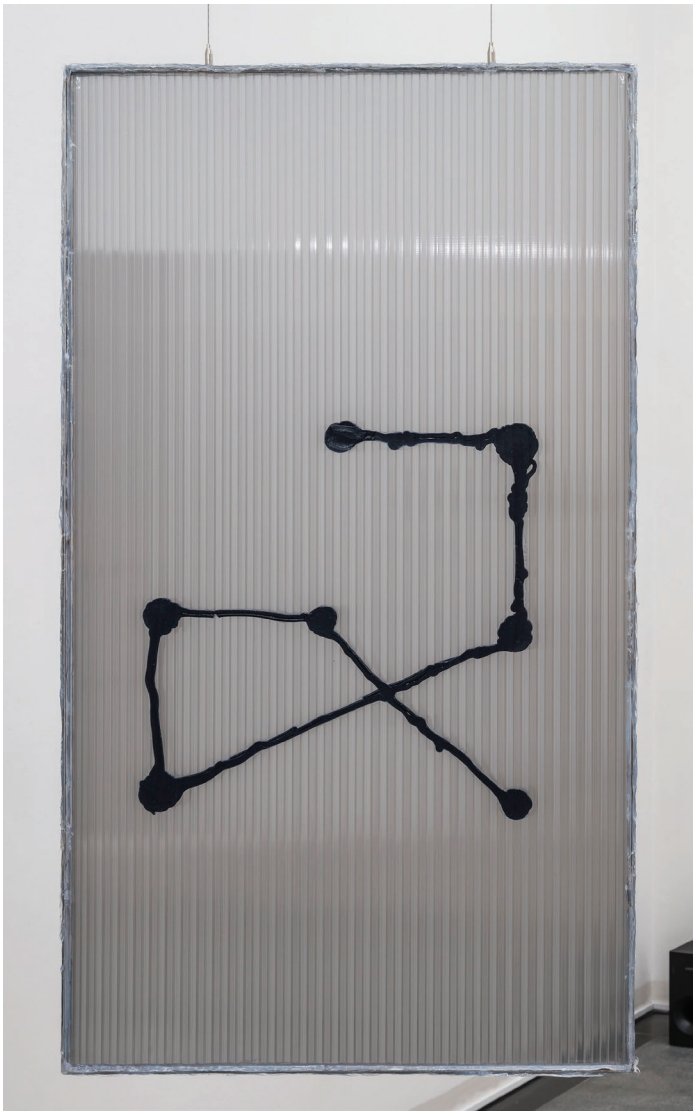

Unlocking pattern 7, 2016
33.86 x 59.45 x 1.57 “
86 x 151 x 4 cm.

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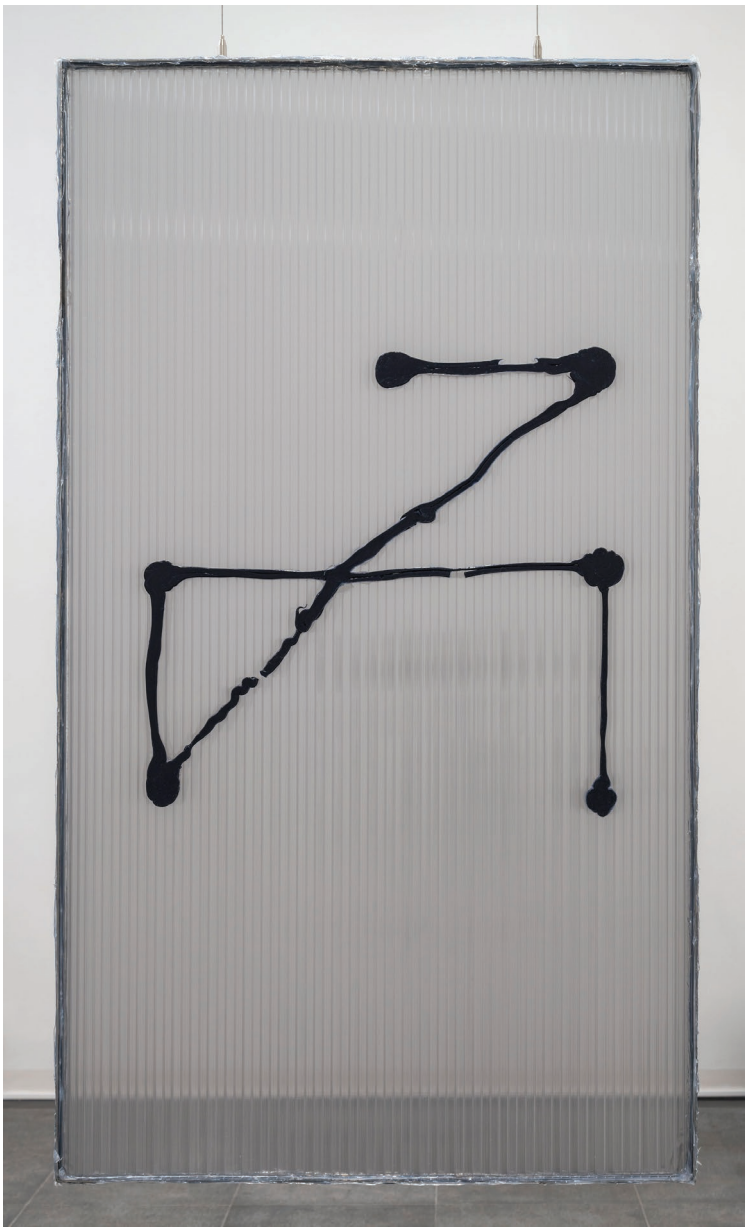

Unlocking pattern 8, 2016
33.86 x 59.45 x 1.57 "
86 x 151 x 4 cm.

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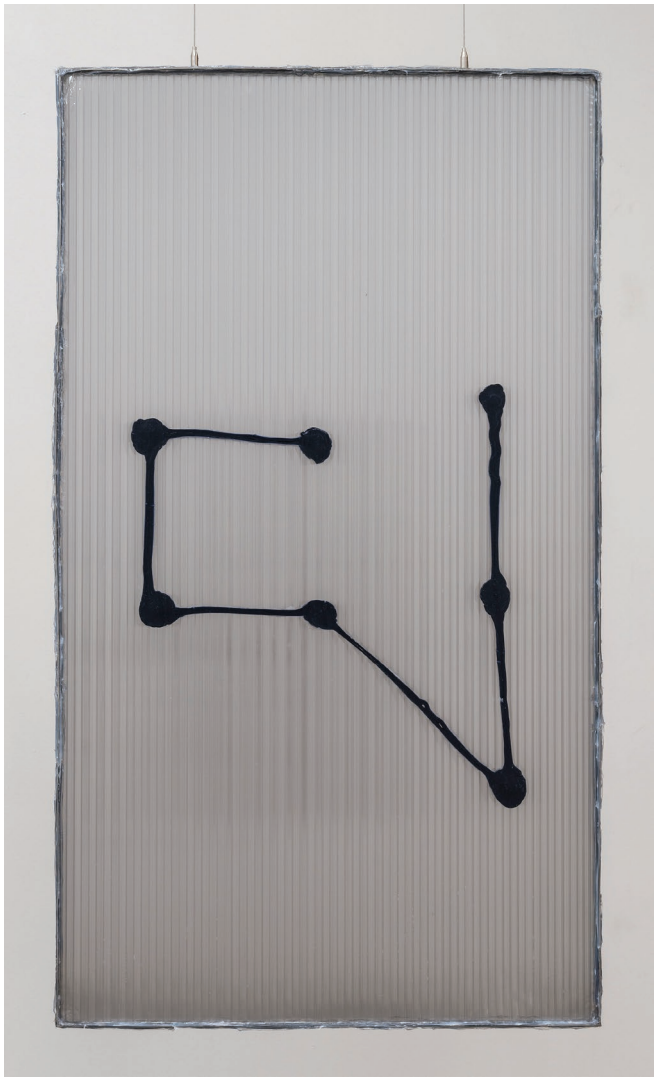

Unlocking pattern 9, 2016
33.86 x 59.45 x 1.57 ”
86 x 151 x 4 cm.

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PÁRAMO

# ISAAC CONTRERAS

## CV

Born in 1984 in Culiacán, Sinaloa.
Lives and works in Geneve, Switzerland.

### EDUCATION

2017 MA Candidate, HES-SO in Fine Arts/Work.Master. Geneve University of Art and Design, Geneve, CH.

2013 Programa de estudios SOMA, Mexico City, MX.

2007 Licenciatura en Comunicación/Fotografía. Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Tijuana, MX.

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2015 Double Couper Swivel. Collectif Rats, Vevey, CH.

2014 Teoría de la pared. Bikini Wax, Mexico City, MX.

2012 Unfolding Landscape. Soma, Mexico City, MX.

2011 Apuntes para un desierto. Museo de Arte de Sinaloa, Culiacán, MX.

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS ANS SCREENINGS

2015 Ethiopia / Utopia. LiveInYourHead, Institut curatorial de la HEAD, Geneve, CH.

Orgon Lunch (Pausa Pranzo Lunga) #1. Radio Tramontana, Museo de Arte de Gallarate, Gallarate, IT.

Toast. Gallerie Ou, Marseilles, FR.

Dig! con Anne Le Trotter. Radio Tramontana, Istituto Svizzero de Roma, Roma, IT.

Lulennial: A Slight Gestuary. Lulu, Mexico City, MX.

2014 feat. Petirama, La Friche Belle de Mai. Marseilles, FR.

Il problema de la sicurezza. Radio Tramontana, Istituto Svizzero de Milano, Milan, IT.

2013 Sarai Reader 09:The Exhibition. Curado por Raqs Media Collective. Devi Art Foundation, Delhi, IN.

A Note in the City, Bruno Glint, London, UK.

Dancing Circles. No Space Gallery, Mexico City, MX.

Proyectos Ultravioleta presenta..., Museo de Arte y Diseño Contemporáneo de Costa Rica, San José, CR.

Viafarini-in.residence. Viafarini, Milan, IT.

2012 State of Exception. Tanja Nijmeijer Gallery, Mexico City, MX.

Saltar con la certeza de que sólo hay concreto. Bikini Wax, Mexico City, MX.

Estudio Abierto Soma. Mexico City, MX.

Alguién aguantando la respiración..., La Cámara, San Miguel de Allende, MX.

III Trienal Poly/Gráfica de San Juan. San Juan, PR.

Open Studio Soma Summer. Mexico City, MX.

2011 13 Bienal de Artes Visuales del Noroeste. Museo de Arte de Sinaloa, Culiacán, MX.

Creación en Movimiento. Museo de Arte de Querétaro, Querétaro, MX

2010 World Visions: Emerging Photographers. New York Photo Festival. New York, US.

7ma Bienal Fotográfica de Baja California. Instituto de Cultura de Baja California, Mexicali, MX.

Bienal de Arte Contemporáneo L.A. Cetto. Tijuana, MX.

XXX Encuentro Nacional de Arte Joven. Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Aguascalientes, MX.

2009 Distancia Relativa. Centro Cultural Tijuana, Tijuana, MX.

2008 Signos y señales, una partitura visual. Palacio de la Cultura, Tijuana, MX.

## RESIDENCIES

2014 Triangle France, Marseilles, FR.

2013 Viafarini, Milan, IT.

2012 SOMA Summer, Mexico City, MX.

## GRANTS AND PRIZES

12 X 12 Arte Emergente, Museo de Arte de Sinaloa, Culiacán, 2011.

Jóvenes Creadores, Programa de Estímulo a la Creación y Desarrollo Artístico de Baja California (PECDA), 2010-2011.

Jóvenes Creadores, Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes (FONCA) 2010-2011.

Premio de adquisición, Bienal L.A. Cetto, Tijuana, 2010.

COLLABORATIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

2015 RadioTramontana, sound experimentation project, Geneve, CH.

2013 Exhibition production at Gaga Fine Arts, Mexico City, MX.

2008 Research project with Bill Kelley Jr. and Lucia Sanromán Proyecto Cívico: Diálogos e Interrogantes, CECUT, Tijuana, MX.

Colectivo de cine, 5 y10 producciones, Tijuana, MX.