Flesh and Concrete

curated by
Jaya Klara Brekke and Julio Salazar

This winning submission for the Franchise Program will be presented in Mexico City from April 19 - May 17, 2012.

Featuring work by:
David Cruz
Erick Diego
Daniel Monroy
Ale de la Puente
Diana Quintero
Francisco Ugarte

Flesh and Concrete will take place in an unused building overlooking the construction site of the Supervia where it meets the Periférico Norponiente. It will explore the diverse imagined futures of the city, from the groups and movements that have sprung up in resistance to the road, to the visions of modernity, development, and progress that the road itself claims to represent. A series of ongoing interviews with activists and residents in the area as well as photographic documentation will form the material basis, along with the architecture itself, from which the artists will work. The aim is to unpack the contradictions inherent in the visually impressive but socially destructive process of infrastructure development highlighting questions of urban development, power, and visualization.

Large infrastructure projects embody visions of an urban future. They literally shape cities in the most extreme ways: visually, socially, financially, and politically. Through the destruction necessary for their completion comes a change to city life that (re)enforces certain lifestyles while making others redundant or impossible. But these structures also contain within them shadows of their own demise. The contemporary environmental and economic crises inspire apocalyptic images as well as imaginations of radically different ways of living and their equivalent spatial organization. As more and more people move to cities, the priorities made and stories told about the future of urban life become increasingly important and complex.

The Supervia Sur-Poniente highway project in Mexico City is an extension of the city's already large — but often congested — network of roads and highways. It is a highly contested infrastructure project that will connect Santa Fe, one of the city's wealthiest areas in the southwest, with the Periférico ring-road, crossing two protected natural areas and several traditional neighborhoods that stand in its way.

http://apexart.org/exhibitions/brekkesalazar.php

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