

apexart

2012-13 Franchise Proposal by
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Franchise location: Lima, Peru

CURATOR/ORGANIZER STATEMENT OF EFFECT:

An apexart Franchise in Lima would help to expand the understanding how contemporary art can be a tool for social development in the society, making the city inhabitants more sensitive and aware to their living environments through the reflection on current challenges and participatory ways to foster solutions.

FULL SUBMISSION:

Lima rooftop ecology

Like small deserts, isolated plots, and terrains-vagues, Lima's rooftops are suspended spaces with particular ecologies. In a city where never rains, the flat rooftops accumulate dust brought by the wind from the surrounding mountains and sandy coastal areas.

Looking over the rooftops of Lima's Historical Center buildings from the 16th to the 20th Century, a process of stagnation and decay is evident. This city center resumes the challenges and problems of an unorganized megacity development, and was entitled in 1991 as World Heritage by Unesco. However, the tourism-oriented recovery and the architectural cosmetic surgery solutions, keep the poverty and social problems untouched behind walls. A slow gentrification process by private investments has been started, focused in the purchase and renovation of office buildings from the XX Century since 2004.

It is from this rooftop perspective, where one gets a different insight in Lima's Historical City Center: approaching to other socio-cultural complexities, impossible to perceived from the street level. These rooftops are a kind of parallel city, but also a fragile, hidden landscape: a territory full of unregulated possibilities within an already existing architectural infrastructure. It is also a space of struggle, survival and right to the city. In opposite and yet complementary ways, the streets and rooftops of Lima tell the story of the city.

The project is a laboratory, intended to sketch models, collaborative processes and situations between artist, architects, inhabitants and neighborhood organizations. These explorations will point out tools and strategies as well as scenarios for action using the rooftops as primary space of display. Together with a round-table dialogue, lectures and screenings, the project will open to the city a live discussion on creative and critical ways to understand social inclusive urban renewal in a context of deteriorated heritage, precarious living conditions and low-income tenants.

The proposed exhibition will take place on different rooftops in the block where the art residency project Zona30 is located. An observation platform will be installed on the rooftop of Zona30, allowing a view of the artworks in the surrounding rooftops, and adjacent walls. Zona30 is located on a 3rd floor of an old office building, next to San Martin Square, in the Historical City Center.

Inside Zona30, the laboratory room will display photography and video, hosting also the round-table discussion between resident organizations and representatives of the city planning department and the office for urban heritage.

Between the considered participants are Christians Luna, Alexia León Angell, Karen Bernedo, Elio Martuccelli, besides the collectives CITIO (Ciudad Transdisciplinar), Colectivo Cholo and Taller de Artesanía Salvaje. They are artists, working in video, performance and other genres, but also architects and interdisciplinary groups well engaged in social practice.

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