

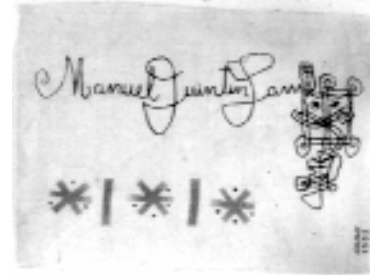
Press release:

Define “context”

Curated by:
José Roca

May 24 - June 24, 2000

Opening reception: Wednesday May 24, 6-8



Antonio Caro, *Homage to Manuel Quintin Lame*, 1992

Artists:

Jesús Abad Colorado
Antonio Caro

Juan Fernando Herrán
Delcy Morelos

José Alejandro Restrepo
Miguel Angel Rojas

Define "context" brings together five artists and a photojournalist exploring a wide variety of media (on-site drawing, video-installation, photography, and painting) whose work reflects on the problems associated with the reception of a work of art in the absence of a “proper” context. It has been common practice to regard artistic production from the fringes of the art centers as “impossible to grasp” unless an “adequate context” is provided, be it political, sociological or religious. In the case of art from the margins, it is assumed that the work inserts itself in the space of a common, largely homogeneous, postcolonial history that is either taken for granted or presumed to be absent, thus leaving the work unable to be properly experienced or understood. But current globalization has made information available to all, and cultural referents are shared more horizontally by everyone regardless of the geographical or even political context. Under the cultural construct “History of Art”, some things tend to be homogeneous, and local specificity tends to connect to global concerns. How, then, to define this “proper context”?

The works that make up this exhibition revolve around the notion of context: questioning biased views of a territory that is not well known (José Alejandro Restrepo); reinstating suppressed histories, and showing that they can still be pertinent when removed from their conditions of production (Antonio Caro); making connections between similar concerns in totally different contexts (Juan Fernando Herrán); showing how a work is interpreted as a direct response to an extreme situation (Delcy Morelos); giving view to a local tragedy that is in fact the result of a global problem that refuses to be acknowledged (Miguel Angel Rojas, Jesús Abad Colorado).

The video "Legalización", which humorously addresses the problem of drug enforcement policies, will be screened several times during the duration of the exhibition. Please visit www.apexart.org for screening times and to learn about additional events related to the exhibition.

A brochure containing an essay by José Roca will be available free of charge.

Please contact Apex Art for further information. Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 11-6.

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