

MARCOS ÁVILA FORERO

Unruly Landscapes

From February 5th to April 24th 2015

Opening: Friday February 5th from 7pm



Atrato (2014)

The need to analyse aspects of the past and the present from memory, to reclaim the local and interest in otherness and postmodern anthropology leads us to an ethnographic turn. This brings us into the presence of a new paradigm of artist: "the artist as ethnographer" (a concept coined by the theorist Hal Foster in the mid-nineties), an artistic practice interested not only in economic or social issues, but also in identity and cultural matters. We could say that Marcos Ávila Forero moves in this terrain — whose current tendency incorporates complicity as a *modus operandi* — appealing to an auto-ethnography that seeks to reclaim the history of his home country, Colombia, and that of other contexts with which he works, moving beyond physical and territorial borders, analyzing forced displacement and the phenomenon of migration. His work is constructed out of the question: How do humans, objects and ideas travel and how are they transformed? A constant displacement that shows us what lies beyond the borders we know, an approach to the reality of the Other.

The projects included in *Unruly Landscapes* seem to evoke an "off-screen": a story, a journey, a trip, or an encounter between the artist and the families, artisans, communities, towns, villages; in short, the human being is the centre of his work, becoming the main character and carrying an embodied story, the story of an escape, an armed conflict, a search for a new path. We could talk about "micro-stories" that seek not so much to prove anything as to explore human migration through violence, dehumanization and personal stories, based on local issues but ultimately seeking the global dimension.

Marcos Avila Forero is involved in his work at both a personal and an artistic level, taking an active role and analysing both physical and psychological reality as a "dystopian place" of memory. Thus his politically engaged work bears witness to complex and sometimes violent realities. Realities such as that of the families in the shanty towns of Colombia's Santander region, who are displaced from their land as a result of the armed conflict in the countryside, a story that is woven into the traditional sandals of **Zuratoque (2013)**; or realities such as that of the descendants of groups of runaway slaves who settled in rebel territories in South America as they fled from French colonialism in the eighteenth century, a story told through the skins of drums created according to the traditional techniques of **Palenqueros (2013)**.



Zuratoque (2013) © Dohyang Lee Gallery



Palenqueros (2013) © Tadzio Fondation d'Entreprise Hermès

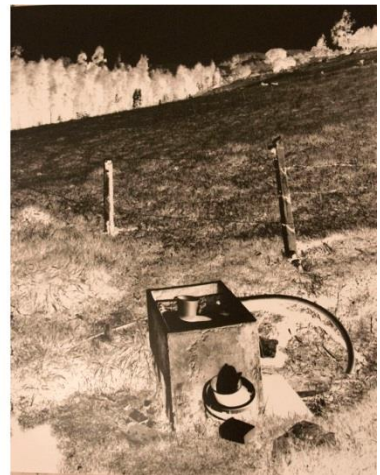
Another element common to all the works in the Unruly Landscapes' exhibition is that dimension of landscape which permeates them, giving unity to the project. The viewer is absorbed into the political landscape of **Colina 266 (2015)**, a heartbreaking and gloomy landscape that bears witness to the scars of the Korean War, in which a battalion of 1,080 Colombian soldiers were sent by the Colombian state to support UN troops during the conflict. Or the sound landscape of **Atrato (2014)**, soundtrack that tell us of a group of local Afro-Colombian residents experiencing the "ordinary violence" of armed conflict.



Atrato (2014)

The Atrato river crosses the Chocó forest, in Colombia, and within this context is one of the main arteries of this country's conflict. The artist, along with a group of researchers and musicians, asked riverside residents to revive an old tradition which comprises hitting the river's surface with their hands and arms. With this action they reproduced a sound inspired by local rhythms, creating percussive music through which the sounds of explosions and impacts of bullets are reproduced, sounds sadly familiar to local inhabitants.

From Atrato's sound landscape, we move to the photographic landscape of *Estenopeica de Paisajes Revoltosos (2014)*, a Colombian region that has become one of the stages for civil and social unrest linked to the need for agricultural reform in the country. In this work, the landscape becomes the photographic eye — to be specific, the peasants' homes are turned into pinhole cameras in order to capture a single photosensitive image. Through this process, hidden and disappearing scenarios are revealed, the rural families' houses, spaces of protest that are engraved on each house and its history.



Estenopeicas de Paisajes Revoltosos (2014)

Finally, the video *La Sucursal del Paraíso (2010)* is marked by the absence of characters, placing the viewer in a suspended space between the image of an empty truck's cargo box and the storytelling of the people who fled forced by the armed conflict; it is left to us to imagine that landscape narrated by the voiceover.

In all his works, Marcos Avila Forero shows difficult and harsh realities in a human, sensitive and poetic way, becoming a witness and an accomplice to these stories, confronting the geographical and ideological borders that exist today. Imperceptible boundaries that separate the city from the mountain, the native from the foreigner, the clandestine from the legal, poverty from wealth, tradition from modernity. The works exhibited at ADN Galería stand out for representing everyday life experiences conceived as performance, which the artist understands as alternative forms of history and memory that convey local knowledge of reality beyond borders, times and places.

"The success of each project is measured in its own scope for involvement. The work achieved exists only because the people I work with decide to exist."

Marcos Ávila Forero

MARCOS ÁVILA FORERO _ Biography

Lives and works between Paris and Bogotá

Marcos Ávila Forero was born in 1983 in Paris, France, he lives and works in Paris and Bogotá, Colombia. In 2010 Marcos completed his studies at École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts of Paris with a DNAP and DNSAP with « Jury's congratulation ». In 2012, after being granted the Prix Découverte des Amis du Palais de Tokyo (Discovery Prize), he was introduced by Giuseppe Penone to be part of an artist's residence with the Fondation d'Entreprise Hermès. He has been awarded with LOOP Award (2014, Spain) with his artwork "À Tarapoto, un Manati", the Residency Prize Hermès (2013, France) and the Prize Multimedia Des Fondations de Beaux Arts (2011, France). His work has particularly been shown at the Palais de Tokyo and Dohyang Lee Gallery in Paris and at the Art Center Casa Redada in Bogotá, Colombia.

Each work by Marcos Ávila Forero is based on an encounter with a unique story, an individual, or an event, expressed as a performance, video or installation using often humble, everyday materials. Forero's politically-engaged works explore violence, destitution and personal stories crossed with fate or the destiny of his home country, Colombia

Solo shows (selection)

2015

Paisajes Revoltosos, ADN Galeria, Barcelona, Spain
Galerie Dohyang Lee - Paris, France
CAIRN Centre d'Art, Digne les Bains, France
Centre d'art Le Château des Adhémar - Montélimar, France

2014

FeldbuschWiesner Gallery - Berlin, Germany

2013

Moukimbí Moukengui, Passerelle Centre d'art contemporain, invitation of Etienne Bernard – Brest, France
Prize « Découverte des Amis du Palais de Tokyo », Palais de Tokyo – Paris, France
Andantes, Dohyang Lee Gallery – Paris, France

2012

De Pasaje, Gallery Olivier Debré – Medellín, Colombia, with the support of the Museum of Modern Art of Medellín, the Embassy of France and the French Alliance
Maku & Ruperto, Art Center Casa la Redada, Bogotá, Colombia

2011

La Balsa Dorada, Espace Guaica – Tenjo, Colombia

2010

Cagnan, ENSBA Paris
Fusiles, ENSBA Paris
Le Bateau Echoué, City Council of Xe arrondissement – Paris, France
With Collective La pieuvre and the artistic group VRVE.

2005

Quenas, Castle La Petite Malmaison – Rueil-Malmaison, France

Group shows (selection)

2015

Post-Natural: Art and Ecology in the Americas, Nottingham Contemporary. Nottingham, England

2014

6th Belleville Biennale. Belleville, France

(OFF)ICIELLE 2014, duo with Elisabeth S. Clark. Paris, France

ArtRio, ADN Galeria. Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

Corpus, corpus, corporis, corpori, corpore (ZOOM 2014 – projection), Galeria Dohyang, Paris, France

Sans tambour ni trompette, cent ans de guerres, Pôle culturel la Graineterie - Houilles, France

Un bateau disparaît en dessinant une carte, Chahuts Festival 2014 - Bordeaux, France

Volta 10 Basel, ADN galería booth, Basel, Switzerland

Accomplices and witnesses, ADN galería, Barcelona, Spain

LOOP video art fair, ADN galería, Barcelona, Spain

ArtBrussels, ADN galería, Brussels, Belgium

Condensation, curated by Gaël Charbau, Fondation d'Entreprise Hermès - Tokyo, Japan and Seoul, Korea

ARCO Madrid, International Contemporary Art Fair

2013

Raw Material - Arte-Sur.org, Centre Georges Pompidou, Cinéma 1 - Paris, France

YIA - Young International Artists, with Julien Creuzet - Paris, France

Du clocher on voit la mer, Friche la Belle de Mai, curated by Marc Geneix - Marseille, France

Melting potes - Jeune Création, escale au musée Montparnasse - Paris, France

43ème Salon Nacional de Artistas - Museo de Arte Moderno - Medellin, Colombie

Condensation, in the framework of the NOUVELLES VAGUES season, curated by Gaël Charbau, Fondation d'Entreprise

Hermès, Palais de Tokyo – Paris, France

Pavillon mais presque, Le Pavillon – Pantin, France

2012

Bonus, Espace Art sans Frontière – Paris, France

Jeune Création 2012, le CENTQUATRE – Paris, France

Nuit Blanche, Festival – Paris, France

Orient'art Express, Festival, Centre d'art Moulay El Hassan – Oujda, Morocco

2011

Le Vent d'Après, exhibition of Jury's Congratulation, curated by Jean De Loisy, ENSBA Paris.

Le Grand Huit, Studio L'Entre Deux – Pantin, France

Festival Invisible, Teatro Popular Gallery – Bogotá, Colombia

2010

Eleven, Priez ICART 2011, Espace Pierre Cardin – Paris, France

2009

Projet R.U.D., Espace Culturel 6BIS – Vitry-Sur-Seine

With Collective La Pieuvre

2007

5 Arte Joven, Espace Piñeros Corpas – Tabio, Colombia

2004

Biennale Internationale de Design, Saint-Étienne, France

BOURSARIES / RESIDENCES / PRIZES

2014

Fieldwork : Marfa - Texas, USA

LOOP Award 2014 (Loop Video-Art Fair, Barcelona, Spain)

2013

Laureate Prize « Découverte des Amis du Palais de Tokyo »

Residency Prize Hermès 2013

2012

Residency Casa La Redada – Bogotá, Colombia

2011

Residency En La Tierra, Armenia, Colombia

Prize Multimedia Des Fondations de Beaux Arts, Paris, France

COLLECTIVE AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain en Aquitaine, Bordeaux / CAYUCO vidéo

Fondation d'entreprise Hermès / PALENQUEROS tambours

Artothèque de Brest / ARQUITECTURAS DE LA MEMORIA photography

À TARAPOTO, UN MANATI (video, edition 1/5, 2/5)

PAYSAGE ARMENIEN (photography)

ALPARGATAS DE ZURATOQUE

ESTIBAS

ANTEPADERA, Codice pour Abdallah

Esquisse pour le projet Cayuco

DIMAS₁

PERIODICO PAYA₂

OTHER

2013 Member of Comité Jeune Création – Paris, France

2010 Co-founder of the artistic group VRVE, with Anastasia Benay and Adrien Schindler

2007 Artistic director and secretary-general of Colectivo La Pieuvre – Paris, France