

Gabriel Sierra: Before Present

21.11.2015–07.02.2016

We are almost constantly surrounded by architecture, but we barely perceive it. Yet it has a major impact on our thought and actions – sometimes obviously, but usually unconsciously. The Colombian artist Gabriel Sierra is interested in precisely this psychological dimension of architecture. He aims to create an experiment that explores the intricate relation in between reality and perception. After all, built spaces are repositories for ideas, fears, and convictions; they are full of ambitions, traces, and future experiences, and possess multiple layers of time. Hardly any other experience demonstrates this as strikingly as *déjà-vu*, when we witness a moment as if it had already occurred. During a moment of *déjà-vu*, the present is transported backward in time; in it, the past, the future, and the present merge into a magical second that is both euphoric and unsettling. Sierra's exhibition at Kunsthalle Zürich is dedicated to this unfathomable and uncanny *Before Present*.

To recreate this condition, the artist repeats the same exhibition three times in separate spaces.

In the entrance of the exhibition and in a small area behind the exhibition space the artist has placed lights, intentionally at the height of the eyes of the viewer to erase the images of the retina before entering and after leaving the exhibition. The intensity of the light will be regulated in relation to the moon phases. Specially created passageways transport us into three different time zones: in one, time lags behind, while in another it runs ahead, and in the third it seems to be correct. These structures allow to experience the exhibition; the exhibition as a concept or idea, a situation per-se, a physic and psychological context. In the specially constructed exhibition spaces we encounter recurring objects and constructions lodged in the walls (like a combination of vernacular windows and ventilation ducts) as if they were being absorbed into them.

Minor differences become apparent, since, as we know, reality is imperfect, just like memory. It deceives us and we deceive it, but as with *déjà-vu* it is not always clear which came first. Does deception come before reality, or is reality the basis of all deception? Here our thoughts begin to turn in on themselves, and for a moment time seems to stop. Yet this confusion does not merely serve to deceive, but invites us to see things in a new light. Sierra's spatial arrangements are always also critical examinations of place, the language of material and elements that create the architecture, its power, and its lack of poetry.

Sierra's interventions may appear sparing and simple, but their precision is imbued with a sense of hidden meaning and absurdity. In them, poetry combines with clear-sightedness, just as the past merges with the present in the phenomenon, commonly known as *déjà-vu*. The result is a kind of magical reality that might catch up to the viewer only on the way home.

–Daniel Baumann, Director Kunsthalle Zürich

Theory and Programs

For our theory and education programs Gabriel Sierra puts the immediate experience of inverted temporal perception on the agenda: On the last day of the exhibition he and his guests will discuss what has been on show and what else could be in the future. A series of guided tours emphasizes the thematic intersections of his exhibition with the two parallel projects, led for adults by the respective producers of the shows, and for families and school classes by our new team of art educators.

Kunsthalle
Zürich

Limmatstrasse 270
CH-8005 Zürich

Artist talk, guided tour, finissage drinks

With Daniel Baumann (Director Kunsthalle Zürich), Gabriel Sierra (Artist, Bogota), and special guests

- Sun, 07.02., 3:00-5:00pm

Guided Tours

With Daniel Baumann (Director Kunsthalle Zürich), Flora Klein (Artist, Berlin), and Jörg Scheller (Curator of the exhibition), followed by private trainings with Jörg Scheller

- Thu, 10.12., 6:30-7:30pm (in German)

With Daniel Baumann, Jan Hofer (Artist, Zurich), and Jörg Scheller, followed by private trainings with Jörg Scheller

- Sun, 13.12., 3:00-4:00pm (in German)

With Daniel Baumann, Flora Klein, and Jörg Scheller, followed by Pop Up Yoga

- Thu, 07.01., 6:30-7:30pm (in German)

Free entry to all events.

Workshops for school classes

With Lorenz Hegi and Seline Fülcher (Art Educators), 90 min.,
booking on request: kids@kunsthallezurich.ch

With kids and teens we explore the exhibition playfully. Please provide your 2-3 preferred dates, the name of the school, the size of your group, and your mobile number for the booking.

We are happy to arrange special guided tour and workshop requests, also in English:
info@kunsthallezurich.ch.

Pop Up Yoga

With Deddou Burkhard

- Wed 16.12., 7:00-8:30pm Magical Yoga Alchemy Sex Dust (Workshop: POP UP YOGA & biomazing.ch), CHF 25
- Thu 07.01., 8:00-9:30pm Beginner Yoga, CHF 25
- Tue 12.01., 7:00-9:00pm Beginner Yoga, CHF 35
- Tue 26.01., 7:00-9:00pm Advanced Yoga, CHF 35
- Tue 02.02., 7:00-8:30pm Friend Yoga, CHF 25

Opening Hours

Tue / Wed / Fri 11 am-6 pm, Thu 11 am-8 pm, Sat / Sun 10 am-5 pm, Mon closed

Please also consult the up-to-date information on our website www.kunsthallezurich.ch

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Stadt Zürich
Kultur



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