

**CARLOS CASTRO ARIAS**

2019 - 2011

In his work Carlos Castro explores elements that are part of the collective and individual identity, and the notion of the body as a social and personal entity. Through the formal and symbolic re-contextualization of objects and images, Castro points out narratives and perspectives ignored in history. Castro lives and works in Tijuana, San Diego and Bogota

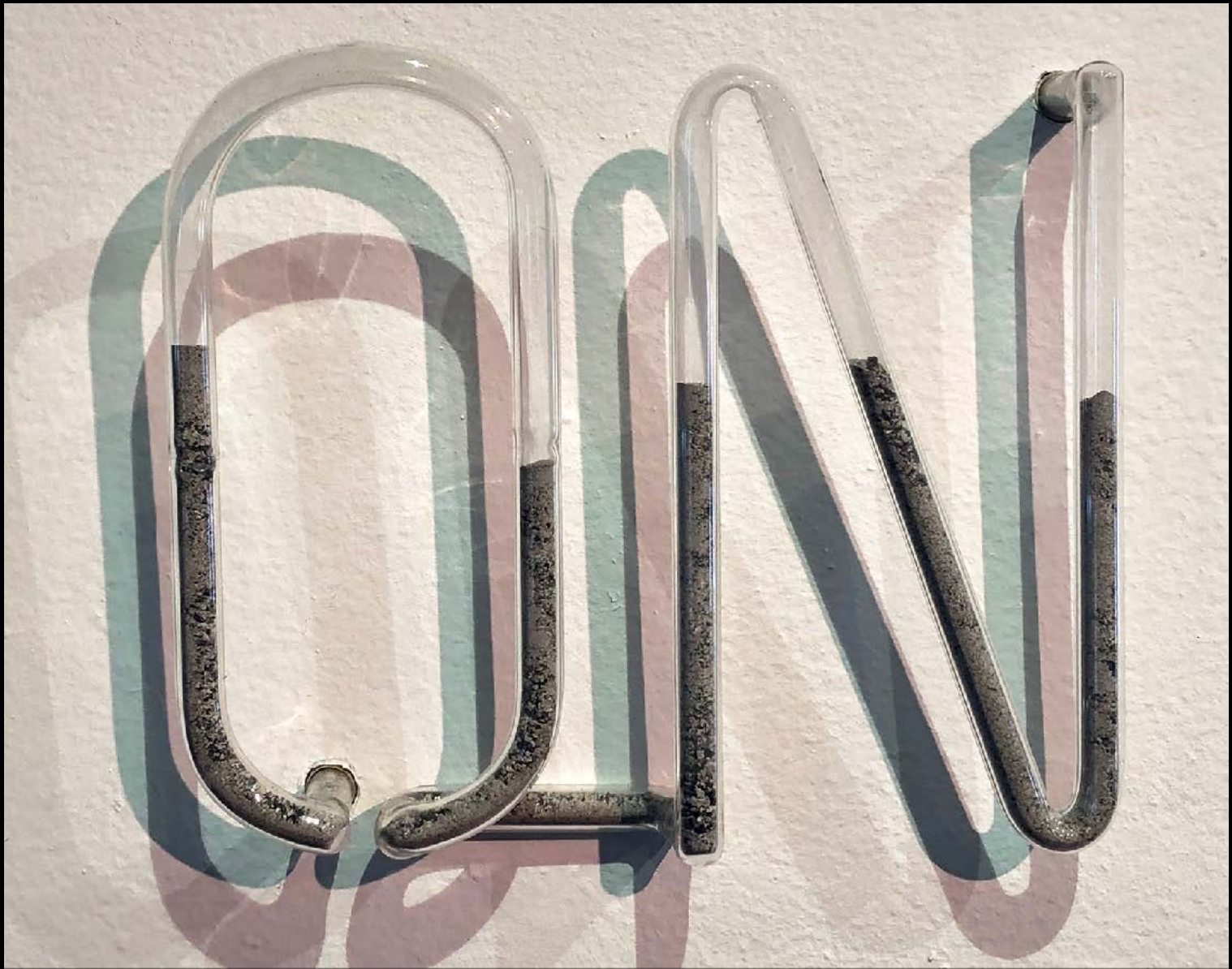
### **The Pain we Create (2019)**

This project is a reflection about physical and emotional pain through works that explore the notion of the body as a somatic container of memories and experiences; the series is composed by traditional stained glass pieces, sculptures that emanate fire, bronze silhouettes, among others



**OPEN (2019)**

Blown glass, stainless steel and propane gas system



ON (2019)  
Blown glass and human ashes



**Pollos (2019)**  
Traditional stained-glass,  
metal frame and led light



**X-Ray (2019)**  
Traditional stained-glass,  
metal frame and led light



**The Pain We Create (2019)**  
Installation view at LA Galeria, Bogota





**Him (2019)**  
Traditional stained-glass, metal frame and led light



**Mute (2019)**

Traditional stained-glass, manhole frame,  
metal frame and led light



**Milagritos (2019)**

Laser-cut bronze shapes taken from Mexican prints from XVII Century to the present.



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Laser-cut bronze shapes taken from Mexican prints from XVII Century to the present.



**Body (2019)**  
Stainless steel and propane gas system

## **Mythstories**

These works explore the relationship between Myth and history; the series illustrates contemporary myths through the appropriation of medieval and current images.



**Mythstories (2019)**  
Installation view at LA Galeria, Bogota



Walk Through El Voto Nacional (2019)  
Woven tapestry, metal bar

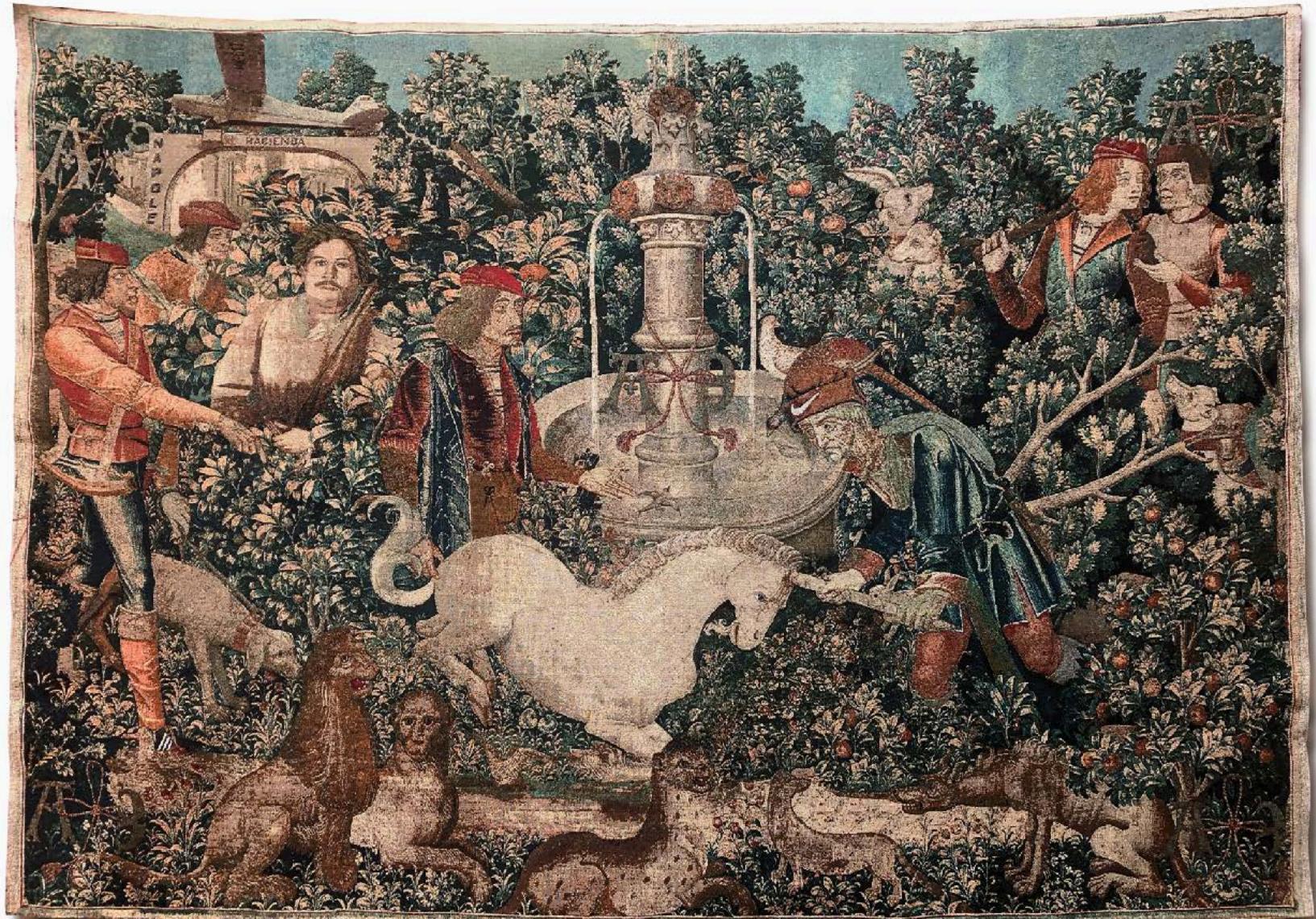




The Creation of The Self Defense at Guacharacas Farm (2019)  
Woven tapestry, metal bar



**Sorcery as a War Weapon (2019)**  
Woven tapestry, metal bar



**The Creation of The Unicorn (2019)**  
Woven tapestry, metal bar



**The Narco Arc (2019)**  
Woven tapestry, metal bar

## **Public Trial (2018 - 2019)**

This series are portraits of monuments that have been vandalized and removed in 2017 and 2018. These images are an exemplify how the values attributed to historical images are constantly changing and reconsidered in society.



**Public Trial (2018)**  
Mixed media on canvas



**Public Trial (2018)**  
Mixed media on canvas



POETRY  
PLAY  
GROUNDS  
&  
POVERTY  
HOLDS



**Public Trial (2018)** at Being Here with You/Estando aquí contigo at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego



## **The Black Box (2017)**

This piece departed from a found school bus that was set on fire and it portraits the memory of a body. Its ruined aspect allows to reflect on the abandoned object and therefore to rethink its use and significance. In it, Carlos Castro Arias created a video installation where music and images work as a mantra, wrapping the body in sounds and pictures that have an anecdotal relationship where the shame of the body is presented.

The video was created in collaboration with the filmmaker Andres Borda and the music composer Daniel Castro. The sound of the piece was elaborated using the actual bus as a musical instrument; the metal chairs as percussion, the window frames as violins, etc; all this constructing a 7 minutes composition.

The arrangement of the stage resembles settings in institutions, such as schools and the churches, where rows of subordinates face a solemn structure. The screen, elevated and dogmatic, attracts the attention of the spectators as a place that has been consecrated.



**The Black Box (2017)**  
Burnt bus, video projection and sound  
7 min video



**The Black Box (2017)**  
Burnt bus, video projection and sound  
7 min video



**The Black Box (2017)**

Burnt bus, video projection and sound  
7 min video



**The Black Box (2017) (Abonnerad)**

Installation at OPEN ART Biennale Sweden.

Volvo bus, video projection and sound.

7 min video.



## The Black Box (2017)

<https://vimeo.com/204137034>

password: cajanegra

Please watch the video using headphones

## **The Dead Things**

The exhibition *The Language of Dead Things* brings together fragments of political and religious sculptures, found objects and contemporary ruins that Carlos Castro Arias uses to reflect on personal memories and episodes from his early years at school and at the church; situations that surely have also happened to many others to which they can relate to.

In this project, the artists wants to give a new life and interpretation to these obsolete objects, also seeking to create reflections about the body as an individual and collective entity, and how it is shaped by educational and religious institutions.

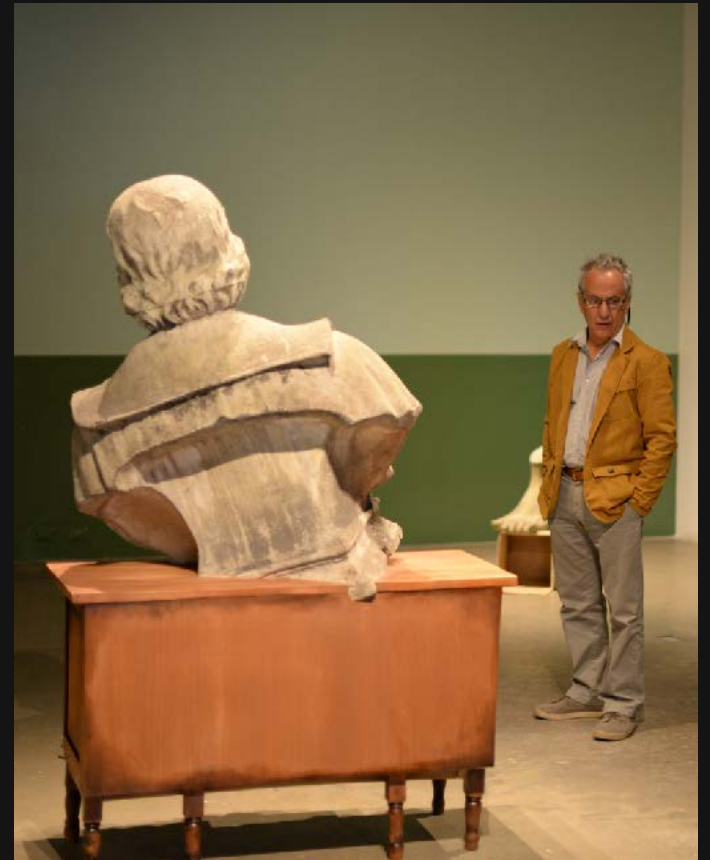
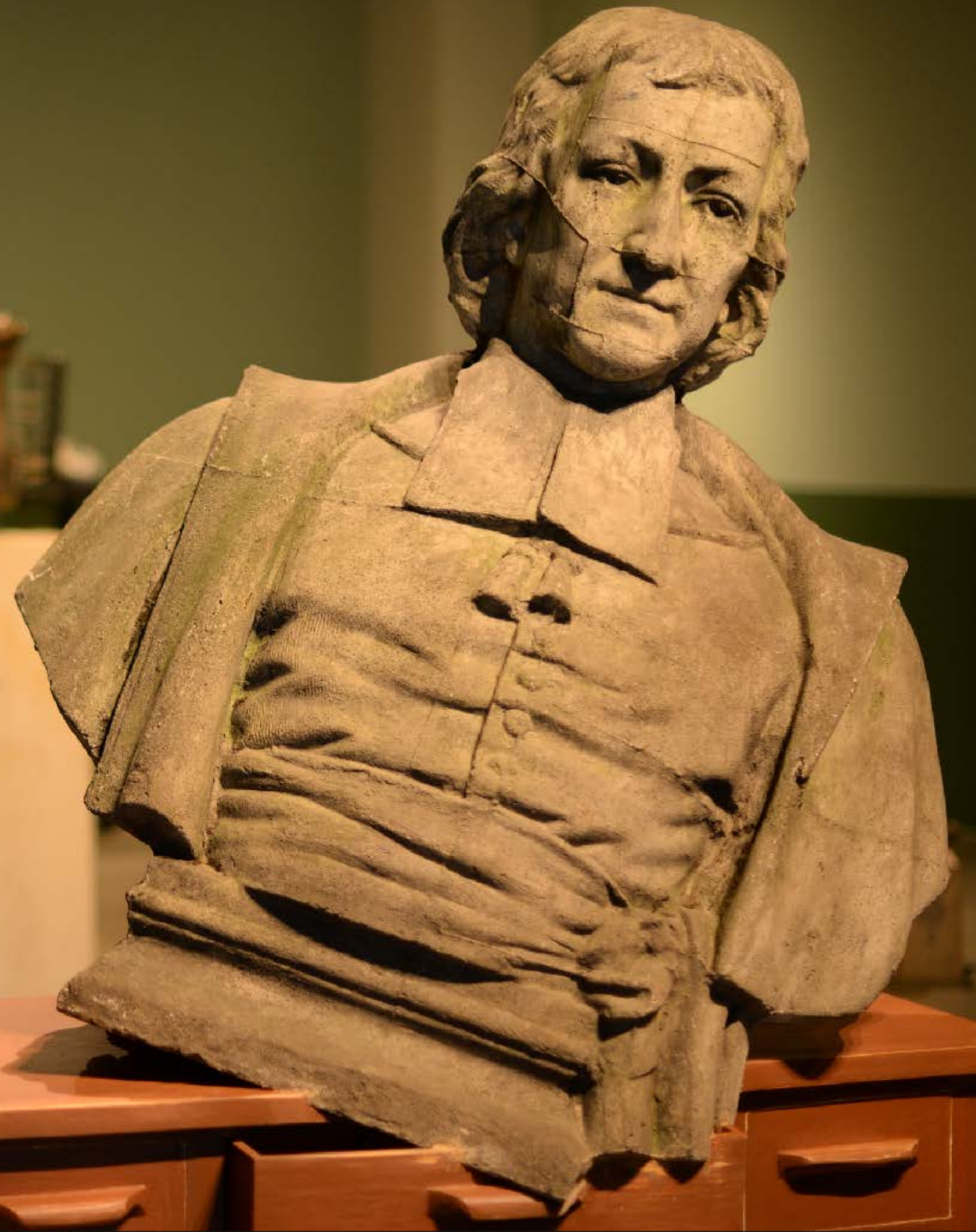


**The Language of Dead Things (2017)**  
Partial view of the exhibition.





**Untitled (2017)**  
Concrete sculpture, metal, Artist's  
desk in his school stage



**Untitled (2017)**

Concrete sculpture, metal, Artist's desk in his school stage



**God (2017)**  
Concrete sculpture, metal  
and cardboard box



**Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough (2017)**  
Bronze sculpture, xylophone, electric motor, sensor and stone base.  
When the sculpture rotates it plays the melody that entitles it.



**Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough (2017)**  
Bronze sculpture, xylophone, electric motor,  
sensor and stone base.  
When the sculpture rotates it plays the  
melody that entitles it.



**God. (2017)**  
Concrete sculpture and fountain.



**Mosaic (2017)**  
23 oil paintings on canvas



**I am not a man, I am a people. (2017)**  
Resin, metal, acrylic and live fish





**I am not a man, I am a people. (2017)**  
Resin, metal, acrylic and live fish



Wall (2017)  
Glass chain and human fat.  
Length 6 meters

NOVA ET VETERA



Wall (2017)  
Glass chain and human fat.  
Length 6 meters

NOVA ET VETERA



**Nova Et Vetera (2017)**  
Installation, laser cut text, water  
pump, ink.



**Nova Et Vetera (2017)**  
Installation, laser cut text, water pump, ink.

## **Breathing by the wound (2011 - present)**

Breathing by the wound is a project that makes reference to the images of the Chorographic Commission, which intended to represent the occupations and trades of the time. Some of these activities today may seem absurd or even brutal, but they were valid ways of subsistence during the colony and beginnings of the republican era.

Based on these images, Carlos Castro creates a series of watercolors where he portrays some of the most common self-sustaining employments today; jobs like the windshield cleaner or a person who sweeps a footbridge from one side to another all day; unsolicited jobs paid for by pity. These activities seem to lead nowhere: someone hits the wheels of a car with a stick and asks for a few coins, the voluntary hole-filler does his job, but in a few days, the hole is in the same conditions or worse.

The watercolors made by Castro are metaphors on the passage of time, of the everyday living that seems to lead nowhere, allusions to futile activities and vicious circles that make part of the human condition.





*Michael Jackson en parque de São Paulo - Brasil*





*Limpia Vidrios de la Calle 26*



*Arreglo de la calzada de Fransmitenio de la Av. Caracas con 72*

Watercolor, wooden frame. Paper from the late 19th and early 20th century



Watercolor, wooden frame. Paper from the late 19th and early 20th century

## Accidental Beauty (2013)

This project has as its starting point Los Martires district in Bogota; this area is full of contrasts and it's the result of drastic changes the city has undergone since the last century. One of the main places of this sector is the Voto Nacional church, which is a century old and commemorates the consecration of Colombia to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, after a civil war. The Voto Nacional church is in the middle of a turbulent zone, where there is a military battalion, a tolerance area of sale and consumption of drugs (The Bronx) and a public school.

This project is the result of the investigation in the area, the functional and symbolic re contextualization of objects found in this district and images that emerged from the experience on it; the pieces synthesize anthropological, aesthetic and historic aspects.





**WHITE CHAPEL (2013)**

Remains of police car, carved wood, brick and sound system.  
Spectators are welcomed to get inside the car while the music piece  
played. Duration 6 min.  
Musical arrangements Daniel Castro



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POTENCIES (2013)

Music boxes, knives confiscated by the Bogota's police. The machines reproduce traditional religious melodies.



SON OF GOD (2013)  
Human bones and bronze. Wooden base





SON OF GOD (2013)  
Human bones and bronze. Wooden base



SON OF GOD (2013)  
Human bones and bronze. Wooden base

## Searching for what is not yet lost (2011)

Carlos Castro is interested in the day to day. Urgency, spontaneity. The open sewer that we do not see. The temporary solution that will (not) work. The patch that works like a toxic relationship, like an addiction that cannot be cured. Humanity beyond social classes. The endlessly repeating self-sustaining jobs that are useless. Unlike most tragedy-obsessed Colombian artists, Castro understands that in Colombia there is no Genesis or Apocalypse, only eternal cycles of return. The widow deals with her grief and moves on with her life. Native plants sprout from sewers. Personalized knives form an army, a legion, a war machine. Scattered things are reunited and reconstructed. And the possibility of generating a fruit, a seed. A new beginning. In 300 teeth, 300 individual stories. A social structure, a construct of shared exchanges. The Capitoline she wolf, founder of civilizations, turned into a stray dog, daughter of civilizations. The stray dog, in the end, also a mother. Who are her children?

Santiago Rueda Fajardo



**Harvest** (2011)  
Human teeth, corn



Cosecha

**Buscando lo que no se ha perdido (2011)**  
Exhibition view at LA Gallery Bogotá



**Legion (2011)**

Giant music box that plays a traditional war melody. In the piece there are inserted confiscated knives by Bogota's police in the downtown area.



**Empire.** (2011)  
Taxidermed stray dog, bronze sculpture



**Exhibition Our place (2012)**  
Partial view of the installation at MAVI museum,  
Santiago de Chile



**Carlos Castro Arias**

2010 MFA San Francisco Art Institute USA

2010 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture USA

2002 BFA Jorge Tadeo Lozano University. Bogota Colombia

**Distinctions**

**2016** Cisneros Foundation Grants and Commissions

**2016** UGP San Diego State University USA

**2013** Artist nominated to the Luis Caballero Prize. Bogota Colombia

**2012** Art Omi Residence

**2010** Skowhegan Residence

**2010** Winner National Juried Exhibition. Juror Robert Storr, Phoenix Gallery NY

**2009** Murphy and Cadogan Fellowship, San Francisco Art commission

**2008** Fulbright scholarship

**2007** Selected Artist, New Horizons, French Alliance, Colombia

**2006** Multiplication Project Prize, Instituto Distrital de Cultura y Turismo, Colombia

**2005** Prize, Freedom Guiding People contest, French Alliance, Bogotá, Colombia

**2003** Honors at Salón Regional de Artistas, Bogotá, Colombia

**2003** Winner for an individual exhibition at Santa Fé Gallery, District Planetarium of Bogotá

**Solo Exhibitions**

**2019** *The Pain We Create*. LA Galería Bogotá. Colombia

**2019** *Mythstories* Solo Project at ArtBO Art Fair. Bogotá, Colombia

**2017** *The Language of Dead Things*. Espacio El Dorado. Bogotá, Colombia

**2015** *Stagnant Heritage*. MUZAC. Montería, Colombia

**2015** *The Spoils*, two person show with J Nolland. Space 4 Arts San Diego, USA

**2014** *Old News of the Present*. LA Galería Bogotá. Colombia

**2014** *Old News of the Present*. 21st Projects NY, USA

**2013** *Accidental Beauty*. Santa Clara Museum. Bogotá, Colombia

**2011** *Looking for what is not lost*, LA Gallery, Bogotá Colombia

**2010** *National Juried Exhibition*, Phoenix Gallery. NY, USA

**2007** *Eating out a donkey*, French Alliance. Bogotá, Colombia

**2006** *Filthy lucre*, La Cometa gallery. Bogotá, Colombia

**2005** *Venta de Garaje*, El Garaje gallery. Bogotá, Colombia

**2004** *Pasito con la abuelita*. Galería Valenzuela y Klenner, Bogotá, Colombia

**2003** *Me gusta eso tuyo...*, Santa Fé Gallery. Planetario Distrital. Bogotá, Colombia.

## 2019

**El tigre no es como lo pintan.** Casa Republicana, Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango, Bogota, Colombia

**Humus.** After 1920, San Diego, USA

**Cuerpos Politicos.** Museo Arte Contemporaneo. Bogota, Colombia.

**Under Construction.** Relatos desde Latinoamerica Coleccion CIFO, Casa Fugaz Lima Peru

**Doble Filo.** Coral Gables Museum Florida USA

## 2018

**Being Here With You/ Estando aquí contigo.** San Diego Contemporary Art Museum. San Diego USA.

**Comfortably Numb.** Another Space NYC, USA. Sep 2018

**Hybrid Topographies.** 60 Wall Gallery. NYC, USA

**Salon Regional de Artistas.** Villa de Leyva, Colombia. August 2018

**Tendrement.** San Diego Art Institute. San Diego, USA

## 2017

**Dialogos.** Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art. Eugene, USA

**Riqueza.** LA Galería. Bogotá, Colombia

## 2016

**Liquid Sensibilities.** Cisneros Foundation Grants and Commissions. Miami, USA

**Borrador 1, La Perpetuidad del Voto Nacional.** Espacio El Dorado. Bogota, Colombia

**Ver con los Oídos.** Bienal SIART. La Paz, Bolivia

**Space To Dream. Recent Art from Latin America.** Auckland Art Gallery. Auckland, New Zealand

**Energy Made in Form.** SDSU Downtown Gallery. San Diego, USA

**Naturaleza Inmaculada / Paisajes Rotos.** Museo de Antioquia. Medellín, Colombia

## 2015

**X Mercosur Biennale.** Porto Alegre Brazil

**Balboa Park at 100.** Art Institute San Diego

**Acorazado Patacón.** Espacio Tabacalera. Madrid Spain

**6 Proyecciones.** Casa de América. Madrid Spain

**La Vorágine.** OMR Galería. México City

## 2014

**O que seria do mundo sem as coisas que não existem?** Frestas Trienal. Sorocaba Brazil.  
**Corpus Delicti** ExTeresa Arte Actual. Ciudad de Mexico  
**Retrato de familia.** Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano. Bogotá Colombia  
**De Colección!.** Museo de Antioquia. Medellín Colombia

## 2013

**Bogotapolis.** The Stenersen Museum. Oslo Norway  
**10 años de Tesis.** Museo de Arte Contemporáneo. Bogotá  
**Melgart.** Museo de Arte Moderno Bogotá  
**Antoquias.** Museo de Antioquia. Medellín  
**Rewind.** Ágora. Bogotá

## 2012

**Editorial II.** Espacio Anexo, Caracas Venezuela  
**Nuestro Sitio.** Mac Niterio Museum. Rio de Janeiro Brasil  
**Nuestro Sitio.** MAVI Museo de Artes Visuales. Santiago de Chile  
**Políticas de la imagen:** Colombian Video Art. Festival de Oodaaq Rennes, France  
**Rituals of Chaos.** Bronx Museum. USA

## 2011

**Salón nacional de artistas de Colombia.** Cartagena, Colombia  
**Essais para un mundo perfecto. Nuevos Nombres,** Luis Angel Arango Library, Bogotá, Colombia  
**Worlds Outside This One.** 516 ARTS, Albuquerque, USA  
**The wrong miracle.** Espacio No Mínimo, Guayaquil Ecuador  
**Pendiente, Intervenciones Artísticas.** Alcaldía Mayor de Bogotá, Colombia  
**Hay hambre.** Valenzuela y Klenner Gallery, Bogotá, Colombia  
**Caza de brujas.** Bogotá, Colombia  
**Catalejo.** MAV Museo de Artes Visuales Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano, Bogotá, Colombia



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Mother (2012)  
Photograph of the artist with his  
newborn daughter