

Art | Basel

Miami Beach

PRESS RELEASE

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Art Basel and The Kitchen to bring multidisciplinary installation by Mexican artist Abraham Cruzvillegas to Miami Beach

This December, Art Basel is partnering with curator Philipp Kaiser and The Kitchen, one of New York City's most historic non-profit spaces, to present a new version of 'Autorreconstrucción: To Insist, to Insist, to Insist...' by Abraham Cruzvillegas. The multidisciplinary installation has been adapted specifically for Miami Beach and will combine elements of sculpture, performance, dance and music. The work, which is supported by MGM Resorts Art & Culture, will be presented in the newly designed Grand Ballroom at the Miami Beach Convention Center (MBCC) and will be free and open to the public. Art Basel, whose Lead Partner is UBS, takes place at the MBCC from December 6 to December 9, 2018.

'Autorreconstrucción: To Insist, to Insist, to Insist...' builds on **Abraham Cruzvillegas'** working methodology of autoconstrucción (self-construction). Originally presented in front of a small audience at Pista, an abandoned dance space in Colonia Roma, Mexico City, the installation and performance premiered in the United States at The Kitchen last April (organized by Tim Griffin and Rachel Valinsky). In its basic parts, 'Autorreconstrucción: To Insist, to Insist, to Insist...' initially consists of an assemblage created in the vein of Cruzvillegas' sculptures, constructed using materials found in the immediate vicinity of the venue during the weeks leading up to the project's public presentation. The resulting sculptural object is suspended in an open space, and performances take place at select times, created by Cruzvillegas' collaborator on the project, choreographer and co-author **Bárbara Foulkes**, with dancers and musicians in improvisation, echoing **Andrés García Nestitla's** direction for this year's earlier iteration at The Kitchen.

The idea of 'Autorreconstrucción: To Insist, to Insist, to Insist...' was born from Cruzvillegas' experience of his parents building their family home using found materials, which evolved over time according to immediate necessity and opportunity. This fundamental part of the artist's practice is also influenced by the collaborative building process undertaken by dwellers of improvised urban settlements around the world – favelas, barrios, slums or shanti towns – who rely on recycled and scavenged materials to ingeniously, but often precariously, respond to their rapidly changing living situations.

On the concept, Abraham Cruzvillegas says, 'Autoconstrucción is about scarcity, solutions and ingenuity... how you can conceive a philosophy of life that you can make something out of nothing. That is also a metaphor for identity... we are constantly transforming ourselves.'

Philipp Kaiser says, 'The new ballroom at the MBCC brings enormous possibilities to Art Basel, creating a vibrant platform for ambitious installations as well as performance that didn't have a proper place until now. 'Autorreconstrucción: To Insist, to Insist, to Insist...' by Abraham Cruzvillegas is the perfect work to be shown in this context, and I am thrilled that we were able to work with The Kitchen on bringing this instrumental work of an institutional scale to Miami Beach.'

'Cruzvillegas's work with Foulkes and Nestitla is absolutely remarkable for the social, psychological and political relationships it makes clear among people, objects and sites, making him one of the timeliest and most resonant artists today', says Tim Griffin Executive Director and Chief Curator of The Kitchen. 'It's an honor to work with Art Basel to bring this collaboration to a larger audience in Miami Beach.'

Noah Horowitz, Art Basel's Director Americas, remarks, 'We are thrilled to partner with the pioneering nonprofit The Kitchen to introduce 'Autorreconstrucción: To Insist, to Insist, to Insist...' by Abraham Cruzvillegas to our audiences this December. The sheer scale of the Grand Ballroom and its immediate proximity to the show floor give us unprecedented opportunities for presenting ambitious artistic projects that go far beyond the limits of the conventional art fair stand. In combination with the new floorplan and show design that we introduced last year as a result of the ongoing renovations of the MBCC, this project heralds an exciting new chapter for Art Basel in Miami Beach.'

NOTES TO EDITORS

'Autorreconstrucción: To Insist, to Insist, to Insist...' Performance Times

December 6 – 9, 2018, 3pm and 5pm

Private View (by invitation only) December 5, 2018, 5pm and 7pm

The project is free and open to the public, and the doors open 30 minutes prior to the performance.

About Abraham Cruzvillegas

Studying pedagogy at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México from 1986 to 1990 in Mexico City, Abraham Cruzvillegas simultaneously attended Gabriel Orozco's Taller de los Viernes, or Friday workshop. Cruzvillegas' most important projects and exhibitions include: *Autorreconstrucción: Social Tissue*, Kunsthaus Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland (2018); *The Water Trilogy 3: Autoconclusion: Ideologically Inconsistent Identity: Jetties, Gutters & Urinals*, as part of *Sensory Spaces 12*, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, the Netherlands (2017); *Autoconstricción aproximante vibrante retroflexe*, Carré d'art musée d'art contemporain de Nîmes, Nîmes, France (2016); *Empty Lot*, Tate Modern, London, United Kingdom (2015); *MALI in situ: Abraham Cruzvillegas*, Museo de arte de Lima, Lima, Peru (2015); and *Autoconstrucción*, Museo Jumex, Mexico City, Mexico, and Museo Amparo, Puebla, Mexico (2014) and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, United States (2013), among others. Furthermore, his work has been included in the following biennials: 12th Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (2015); 12th Havana Biennial, Havana, Cuba (2015); The Shanghai Biennial, Shanghai, China (2012); and *dOCUMENTA 13*, Kassel, Germany (2012). Cruzvillegas currently lives and works in Mexico City, Mexico.

About Bárbara Foulkes

Born in Argentina in 1982, Bárbara Foulkes today lives and works in Mexico City, where she works as an independent choreographer, dancer, producer and teacher. Having studied Choreographic Composition at the National University of Arts of Buenos Aires, Foulkes has directed works such as *Fleet*, *Homeless*, *Phenomenon* and *Nine Point Eight* with Nuria Armenta, and in 2017 opened *Pista*, an independent dance and choreography space in Mexico City. Foulkes is also a member of the AM Collective. Since 2010, Foulkes has worked with harnesses and ropes, allowing her to inhabit otherwise uninhabited spaces by suspending the body. She is interested in choreography as an

uncertain field that does not focus on what a body can do, but on the notion what bodies are made of and how they relate to and in their environments and contexts.

About Andrés García Nestitla (Cuacharas)

Born in 1978, Andrés García Nestitla is a cultural promotor of Huasteca music events in Mexico City. He plays instruments such as the jarana huasteca, jarana jarocho, vihuela, double bass, and percussion, and is distinguished in falsetto singing. García is also a dance and music teacher at the renowned Ballet School of Amalia Hernández and teaches in the Oaxacan community of Tlahuitontepec in the Sierra Ayuuj. His maternal family comes from the Huasteca tradition, and this influence was fundamental in his professional development as a dancer for the National Folkloric Dance School of Mexico, where he specialized in contemporary dance, tight rope and traditional music. He has participated in different national and international traditional music and dance encounters in Mexico and has collaborated frequently with Cruzvillegas.

About Philipp Kaiser

Philipp Kaiser is an independent curator and critic, who has previously served as the Director of the Museum Ludwig, Cologne; Senior Curator and Curator at The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and Head of Contemporary Art at Kunstmuseum Basel / Museum für Gegenwartskunst. Swiss-born and Los Angeles-based, Kaiser has curated numerous noteworthy exhibitions throughout his career, including 'Women of Venice – Carol Bove and Teresa Hubbard / Alexander Birchler' at the Swiss Pavilion of the 57th Venice Biennale in 2017. He recently co-curated with Glenn Phillips a travel exhibition for the Getty Research Institute titled 'Harald Szeemann. Museum of Obsessions'. In addition to his curatorial work, Kaiser has lectured extensively on the subject of art history, edited publications and written catalogue essays, reviews and articles throughout his career.

About The Kitchen

The Kitchen is one of New York City's leading nonprofit spaces, showing innovative work by emerging and established artists across disciplines. The Kitchen's program ranges from dance, music, performance, and theater to video, film, and art, in addition to literary events, artists' talks, and lecture series. Since its inception in 1971, The Kitchen has been a powerful force in shaping the cultural landscape in the United States and has helped launch the careers of many artists – from Laurie Anderson, Philip Glass, and Arthur Russell to Dara Birnbaum, Julius Eastman, Barbara Kruger, and Talking Heads, among many others – who have gone on to worldwide prominence. For further information, please visit thekitchen.org.

About Art Basel

Founded in 1970 by gallerists from Basel, Art Basel today stages the world's premier art shows for Modern and contemporary art, sited in Basel, Miami Beach and Hong Kong. Defined by its host city and region, each show is unique, which is reflected in its participating galleries, artworks presented, and the content of parallel programming produced in collaboration with local institutions for each edition. Art Basel's engagement has expanded beyond art fairs through a number of new initiatives such as Art Basel Cities, working with partner cities on bespoke cultural programs. For further information, please visit artbasel.com.

Partners

UBS, Global Lead Partner of Art Basel, has supported the organization for 25 years. As Art Basel's global network expanded, UBS increased its lead partnership to include all three shows, Art Basel Cities, and as co-publisher of the Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report. UBS has a long record of engagement in contemporary art with the UBS Art Collection, one of the world's most distinguished corporate art collections with more than 30,000 works created by artists from more than 75 countries, at its core. The firm

actively enables audiences to participate in contemporary art through its partnerships with leading cultural organizations around the world. For more information about UBS's commitment to contemporary art, visit ubs.com/art.

MGM Resorts Art & Culture supports 'Autorreconstrucción: To Insist, to Insist, to Insist...'. Each art installation, collection and partnership that MGM Resorts Art & Culture has realized over the years, carefully considers the artist, the environment and the overall experience. For further information, please visit mgmresorts.com/artandculture.

Art Basel's **Associate Partners** include Audemars Piguet, whose expanding activities in contemporary art include the Audemars Piguet Art Commission; and NetJets – the world leader in private aviation. Art Basel is also supported globally by BMW (who has co-developed with Art Basel the BMW Art Journey), Ruinart and La Prairie.

Additional Partners are Douglas Elliman Development Marketing, Vienna Tourist Board, Sanlorenzo, Yvel, Swiss International Air Lines and Kanna. Hotel Partners include The Betsy South Beach, Grand Beach Hotel Miami Beach and W South Beach. For further information about partnerships, please visit artbasel.com/partners.

Important Dates for Media

Media Reception

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Private View (by invitation only)

Wednesday, December 5, 2018, 11am to 8pm

Thursday, December 6, 2018, 11am to 3pm

Public days

Thursday, December 6, 2018, 3pm to 8pm

Friday, December 7, 2018, 12noon to 8pm

Saturday, December 8, 2018, 12noon to 8pm

Sunday, December 9, 2018, 12noon to 6pm

Press accreditation

Online registration for press accreditation is now open. Please note that press accreditation for our show in Miami Beach is taking place online only. Therefore, it is important to register and apply online before coming to the fair. Please visit artbasel.com/press/accreditation.

Upcoming Art Basel shows

Miami Beach, December 6-9, 2018

Hong Kong, March 29-31, 2019

Basel, June 13-16, 2019

Media information online

Media information and images can be downloaded directly from artbasel.com/press. Journalists can subscribe to our media mailings to receive information on Art Basel.

For the latest updates on Art Basel, visit artbasel.com, find us on Facebook at facebook.com/artbasel or follow @artbasel on Instagram, Google+, Twitter, Weibo and WeChat.

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