WASHINGTON PROJECT FOR THE ARTS BRINGS RENOWNED PANAMANIAN VIDEO ARTISTS TO WASHINGTON, DC FOR THEIR FIRST SOLO EXHIBITION IN THE NATION’S CAPITAL

Hothouse Video is a contemporary video series presented by Washington Project for the Arts featuring works by exceptional local, national, and international artists in the lobby of the Capitol Skyline Hotel.

#HothouseVideo
ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Conlon and Harker make collaborative videos with a playful approach to serious sociopolitical issues. The banality of the found objects they employ in their works belies an incisive, yet poetic, social criticism on issues such as national identity, mass consumerism and social behavior.

The exhibition’s six works take on a new layer of meaning shown in the setting of our Nation’s Capital. Capapults presents a game of bottle caps catapulted from disposable spoons. The plastic bottle caps are launched at a concrete platform that was once part of a U.S. military installation during the U.S. occupation of the Panama Canal Zone and is now an observation deck in a park. Domino Effect addresses the frenzied real estate boom in Panama which is re-configuring the urban landscape, a situation with which residents of our rapidly developing city can easily identify. Invisible Hands alludes to the social and financial power structures and the symbolic nature of money. In Tropical Zincphony, a mango falls from a tree onto a corrugated zinc roof and goes on a fanciful sensorial journey. Color, texture, sound, and rhythm – key elements of the artists’ work – are used whimsically to explore the roles of unpredictability and spontaneity of life in the tropics. (Video) Game #4 is from a larger series that alludes to common tabletop games. The chips and boards are objects recovered from the ruins of historic neighborhoods demolished in Panama City, Panama, which is suffering the effects of an overzealous construction boom fueled by rampant real estate speculation. Each game draws on its own internal logic and set of rules to question and critique this rapidly changing urban fabric. In Drinking Song, the artists humorously comment on the construction of national symbols and identities by using Panamanian beer bottles and beer cans to play the United States’ national anthem.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Donna Conlon (USA, 1966) lives and works in Panama. In 1991 she received a Masters degree in biology from the University of Kansas and in 2002 earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in sculpture from the Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD. Jonathan Harker (Ecuador, 1975) lives and works in Panama. In 1999 he graduated with honors in film and media studies from the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Conlon and Harker began collaborating in 2006 and have since presented their work at: the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, New York (2014); Pérez Art Museum, Miami, Florida (2014); El Museo de Arte y Diseño Contemporáneo, San José, Costa Rica (2014); Diablo Rosso Gallery, Panama City, Panama (2014); El Nuevo Museo de Arte Contemporáneo (NuMu), Guatemala City, Guatemala (2014); Centro Galego de Arte Contemporánea, Santiago de Compostela, Spain (2013); Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art, Toronto, Canada (2013); Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia (2012); El Museo del Barrio, New York, New York (2012); Centro Cultural Los del Patio, Panama City, Panama (2011); TEOR/éTica, San José, Costa Rica (2009); Palais du Tokyo, Paris, France (2009); and Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas, Gran Canaria (2007).
on South wall by window

*Invisible Hands*, 2014
HD Video, 8:56 mins.
Courtesy of the of Artist and Diablo Rosso Gallery, Panama City, Panama

small monitor mounted on west wall

*(Video) Game #4*, 2009
HD video, 0:24 sec.
Courtesy of the of Artist and Diablo Rosso Gallery, Panama City, Panama

large monitor mounted on west wall

*Drinking Song*, 2011
HD video, 1:58 mins.
Courtesy of the of Artist and Diablo Rosso Gallery, Panama City, Panama

at elevator

*Tropical Zincphony*, 2013
HD video, 1:45 mins.
Courtesy of the of Artist and Diablo Rosso Gallery, Panama City, Panama

double monitors (left)

*Capapults*, 2012
HD video, 3:40 mins.
Courtesy of the of Artist and Diablo Rosso Gallery, Panama City, Panama

double monitors (right)

*Domino Effect*, 2013
HD video, 5:13 mins.
Courtesy of the of Artist and Diablo Rosso Gallery, Panama City, Panama
ABOUT US

Washington Project for the Arts is a non-profit organization whose mission is to serve a catalyst for contemporary art. WPA supports artists at all stages of their career and promotes contemporary art by presenting exhibitions, issues and ideas that stimulate public dialogue on art and culture. Since its founding in 1975, WPA has showcased the works of thousands of artists and has reached hundreds of thousands of visitors and viewers with its programs and projects.

PARTICIPATE

BECOME A MEMBER
Our artist members are partners in our mission; our work is meant to ensure their visibility and success. WPA is the only artist member organization in the region that offers programming to serve artists at every point in their career.

DONATE
Your donation supports free programs and exhibitions throughout the year. As WPA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, your donation is fully tax-deductible.

ATTEND
WPA’s small but dedicated staff produces a robust schedule of high-quality public programs and exhibitions including critically-acclaimed group exhibitions, individual artist projects, public art projects, and events in our home at the Capitol Skyline Hotel.

SUPPORTERS