



Acts of God – Mexican Pavilion

At the 58th International Art Exhibition | La Biennale di Venezia

Press Release

Acts of God, by artist Pablo Vargas Lugo, utilizes cinematographic language to reflect on the concept of faith as a religious belief and about the ways in which our convictions are represented—if not distorted and manipulated—by political discourse and the social imaginary.

This project, curated by Magalí Arriola, establishes a dialogue with the curatorial concept of the Biennale Arte 2019, “May you live in interesting times,” to examine how we gauge our actions and how we establish a connection between the natural world and geological time, and to question the origins of our moral choices, and our inherited values such as the idea of redemption.

In Vargas Lugo’s own words, “*Acts of God* is a work that becomes very relevant in a situation in which there is a greater prominence of religious belief in the public sphere, and in which religious discourse has become a privileged marker of identity to justify nationalist and sectarian positions.”

The work comprises two films of different durations (approximately twenty minutes each) that, much like two gears, interlock by means of shared iconic elements that appear in different order in each film and thus produce different narrative sequences. The film was shot in Cuatrociénegas, a natural reserve in the state of Coahuila. This location highlights the wealth of Mexico’s biodiversity and our need to preserve it.

Pablo Vargas Lugo (b. 1968) studied visual arts at the Escuela Nacional de Artes Plásticas, part of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). In his work he uses elements from various disciplines such as astronomy, cartography, archeology, and science fiction. Through drawings, sculptures, paintings, installations and videos, he creates conceptual games that, often with the use of humor, address topics such as language, social conventions and millenary traditions.

The opening of the 58th International Art Exhibition will take place on Saturday, May 11, 2019. *Acts of God* will be on view at the The Arsenale’s Sale d’Armi until November 24.

The exhibition catalogue is a collaboration between Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes y Litteratura (INBAL) and Mousse Publishing, designed by Estudio Herrera.

Image Credits

Pablo Vargas Lugo, *Acts of God*, 2019

Photography: Jéssica Villamil

Participants and Exhibition Credits

Artist

Pablo Vargas Lugo

Curator

Magalí Arriola

Commissioner

Gabriela Gil Verenzuela

Assistant Curator

Andrea de la Torre

Artist’s Assistant

Jorge Scobell

Music

Juan Cristóbal Cerrillo
Ramón del Buey

Design

Estudio Herrera

Catalogue Distribution

Mousse Publishing

Production

WE EXHIBIT

Exhibition Venue

Sale d’armi, Arsenale

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