



AMA

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POSSIBLE WORLDS **MUNDOS POSIBLES** PHOTOGRAPHY AND FICTION IN MEXICAN CONTEMPORARY ART

On view July 8 - August 28, 2011

AMA | ART MUSEUM of the AMERICAS
201 18th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
Hours: TUE - SUN | 10AM - 5PM

Thursday, July 7 at 5:30pm:

Gallery talk and exhibition preview

Thursday, July 7 at 6:30pm: Opening Reception

AMA | ART MUSEUM of the AMERICAS announces the opening of **POSSIBLE WORLDS | MUNDOS POSIBLES**: Photography and Fiction in Mexican Contemporary Art, an exhibition of contemporary photography from Mexico. The exhibition has been organized in collaboration with the Mexican Cultural Institute, with the support of the Embassy of Mexico in Washington, DC, the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the OAS, and the Friends of the Art Museum of the Americas; and curated by art historian Marisol Argüelles, who places nine photographers into five distinct but interwoven groups; Fables + Myths, Science + Fiction, Apocalypse, Ordinary Worlds, and Erasure.

The artists of Possible Worlds are part of a new generation of photographers that breaks away from the tradition of photojournalism, archetypes and traditional models. Influenced by film, literature, fantasy, science fiction, electronic music, they delve into alternative worlds as conceived by the human mind. These works speak to avenues of the imagination, rather than serving as documentation of the natural world, revealing worlds that are birthed internally and then given permanence in these photographs.

In the realm of Fables + Myths, Kenia Náñez' narrative of the relationship between a girl and a farm animal, played out in a vast flatland under heavenly skies, suggests a story that is both maternal and solitary. Demián Siqueiros' story is more bombastic and laden with activity, as a cluster of humans intertwine, thrust their limbs skyward, and interweave through settings that are both majestic and dystopian. Similar are Fernando Montiel's fantastic Science + Fiction images of human forms who glide through the air, levitate in the apartments, and grow plant life from their own bodies. Katya Braylovsky's body of work brings



an element of noir into what appears to be another world that is riddled with tensions and characters that possess strength in their solitude.

Rubén Gutiérrez creates a post-apocalyptic world that is vast in scale and barren in landscape, where the last humans standing wade through oceans and trek through what remains of human-built paths. Daniela Edburg's characters seem to be mere observers, going about their picturesque lives of family picnics as atomic bombs explode in the distance.

The Ordinary Worlds of Mauricio Alejo and Alex Dorfsman are anything but typical. Alejo's Converse sneaker tucks itself away in the corner of a ceiling, and his character's arm is swallowed by a sofa. Dorfsman's subjects are as likely to snack on a bicycle seat as a hot dog. Perhaps the word "ordinary" should be in quotes.

These artists photograph their utopias and nightmares alike to create myths and fables. The worlds created in the mind are fiction, and may reflect a want to escape, a desire of establishing a new order of elements in the world, or even fables about what we are not now and will never be, but would like to be. There is a freedom in the conception of limitless worlds. This exhibition aims to bring the viewer into the imaginations of nine Mexican photographers, whose imagined worlds are not limited by what can be physically described or contained in a concrete universe.

Possible Worlds includes the work of:

Mauricio Alejo
Katya Brailovsky
Ricardo Alzati

Alex Dorfsman
Daniela Edburg
Rubén Gutiérrez

Fernando Montiel
Kenia Nárez
Damián Siqueiros

Marisol Argüelles is an art historian who studied at the Ibero-American University in Mexico. She curated exhibitions for the Museo Carrillo Gil in Mexico City from 2002 through 2007. She has curated solo exhibitions with Jeff Burton, Mark Wallinger, Iran do Spirito Santo, and Kara Walker. From 2007 through 2009, she headed the Department of Research and Exhibitions of the National Institute of Fine Arts of Mexico. She has contributed as a curator for fairs such as the London Art Fair, the Toronto Art Fair, MACO (Mexico) and Pulse (United States). She is currently the chief registrar and researcher of the Museum of Modern Art, Mexico City.

