

Mario García Torres

12_4 / 12_5 2019

Beyond Performance

Cally Spooner

Opavivará!

Firenze
Palazzo Strozzi

16_5/ 14_7 2019

BEYOND PERFORMANCE

Florence, Palazzo Strozzi 12 April–14 July 2019

Special project with contemporary artists Cally Spooner, Mario García Torres and Opavivará!

Produced and organised by

Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi, Fondazione CR Firenze and the Osservatorio per le Arti Contemporanee

From 12 April to 14 July 2019 Palazzo Strozzi, Florence will host **Beyond Performance**, a special project produced and organised by the Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi, the Fondazione CR Firenze and the Osservatorio per le Arti Contemporanee. Curated by Alberto Salvadori, **Beyond Performance** will feature site-specific work by artists **Cally Spooner**, **Mario García Torres** (in the Strozzina undercroft from 12 April to 12 May 2019) and by the **Opavivará!** collective (in the courtyard of Palazzo Strozzi from 16 May to 14 July 2019).

The project explores **three different approaches to performance art today** by experimenting with different media, and contexts and involving the audience in a debate on public participation with performance-based works.

Celebrated for her ability to combine space, performance and writing, **Cally Spooner** (United Kingdom, 1983) presents **And You Were Wonderful, On Stage**, a video installation based on a musical of the same name produced in 2013 and proposed by the artist as a live performance in numerous international exhibition venues and museums. Adopting a meta-narrative approach, the work shows the construction of a film based on the musical across five large screens. Music plays while there's live filming capturing actors and performers moving seamlessly between the stage and the backstage. A female chorus is the protagonist of the film as they transform into song the notes of a meeting in an advertising agency discussing how to turn personal facts into potential advertisements for the firm. Citing pop culture icons such as Beyoncé and Justin Bieber or politicians such as Michael Gove and Jon Favreau, the text and the installation are transformed into an ironic reflection on how media and technologies can conceal, manipulate or transform reality.

Mario García Torres (Mexico, 1975) proposes **Falling Together in Time**, a framework in which video, painting, music, sculpture and performance come together to create a series of connections, displacing the gallery to the concert arena. The title is taken from one of the videos in the show: starting in Los Angeles in the early 1980s, the video recounts events and stories from popular and musical culture that are connected through a series of random connections through time, place, and pop culture. This project includes a sound installation entitled **This Sound Makes Me Think Something Great Is About to Happen** and a series of five black monochrome paintings, each one of which is provided with an LED light on canvas, wired to an electronic device that reproduces five different songs that pulse to the beat of several songs in the video, including: *Holiday* di Madonna, *Instant Crush* dei Daft Punk, *Gentlemen Take Polaroids* di Japan, *1984* di Van Halen, *Physical* di Olivia Newton-John.

The **Opavivará!** collective (Brasil 2005) brings the project to a close by turning the courtyard of Palazzo Strozzi into an area for the public to interact with the installation, **Rede Social**. A large and extremely colourful hammock measuring over 10 metres, **Rede Social**, encourages the public to climb into it to experience the space and architecture of the Palazzo from a new and unusual perspective. The artwork has

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been designed specifically for the Courtyard of Palazzo Strozzi, an enclosed space in the heart of the Palazzo that is also open to the city. Inspired by Brazilian culture, open, free and deeply collective, *Rede Social* (Social Network, a title that plays on the double meaning of 'social' and 'network') consists of a structure akin leading to an open tunnel supporting a coloured hammock with twelve interlinked stations. By climbing into the structure, the public are encouraged to abandon their daily lives and routine, to relax and see the world afresh.

"Alongside our major exhibition on Verrocchio, Master of Leonardo, we are eager to underscore the fact that contemporary art continues to form an integral part of Palazzo Strozzi's identity: a stimulus for causing the past and the present to interact" – said **Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi Director General Arturo Galansino** – *"Following the success of the Radical Utopias exhibition in 2017, this new project based on collaboration between the Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi, the Fondazione CR Firenze and its Osservatorio per le Arti Contemporanee confirms the two foundations' commitment to production and research in the field of contemporary art, fostering a renewed reflection on the Strozzi and Courtyard of Palazzo Strozzi as vibrant, dynamic spaces in which to stimulate active enjoyment and public participation"*.

"For some time now" – **Director General Gabriele Gori** pointed out – *"the Fondazione CR Firenze has been involved, via its Osservatorio per le Arti Contemporanee, in sponsoring projects, events and proposals in the research and dissemination of contemporary art, an involvement that is part and parcel of a broader reflection on the multiple faces of Florence, which stretch well beyond its traditional Renaissance aspect. In supporting this project with its three site-specific artworks, we aim to contribute once again to demonstrating that, today as in the past, our city can continue to be a fertile hub of creativity and of international art production"*.

Beyond Performance is a project produced and organised by the Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi, Fondazione CR Firenze and its Osservatorio per le Arti Contemporanee. The Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi's institutional supporters are the Comune di Firenze, the Regione Toscana and the Camera di Commercio di Firenze. Our gratitude for their cooperation goes to the Galleria Franco Noero, Turin; the Galleria Zero..., Milan

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FACT SHEET

Title	<i>Beyond performance</i>
Venue	Palazzo Strozzi
Period	12 April – 14 July 2019
Curated by	Alberto Salvadori
Promoted and organised by	Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi, Fondazione CR Firenze, Osservatorio per le Arti Contemporanee
With the support of	Comune di Firenze, Camera di Commercio di Firenze, Regione Toscana
Press Offices	Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi - Lavinia Rinaldi T. +39 055 3917122 l.rinaldi@palazzostrozzi.org Fondazione CR Firenze – Riccardo Galli T. +39 055 5384503 riccardo.galli@fondazionecrfirenze.it
Promotion	Susanna Holm – Sigma CSC T. +39 055 2340742 susannaholm@cscsigma.it
Opening hours	Everyday 10.00-20.00, Thursdays 10.00-23.00.
Info	T. +39 055 2645155 www.palazzostrozzi.org
Admission	Free entrance

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BIOGRAPHIES OF THE ARTISTS

CALLY SPOONER

Born in London in 1983, Cally Spooner divides her time between England and Athens. Her recent one-woman shows, in which she combines installations, writing and performances, have been held in international museums and institutions including the Swiss Institute in New York (2018), the Castello di Rivoli in Turin (2018), the Centre d'Art Contemporain in Geneva (2018), the Whitechapel Gallery in London (2017), the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam (2016) and the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York (2016). Spooner's work has been included in collective exhibitions at the Centre for Contemporary Art in Singapore, the V-A-C Foundation in Moscow (2018), The Serpentine Galleries and Central Saint Martins in London (2017), the Kunsthaus in Zurich (2017), the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh (2016) and the REDCAT Gallery in Los Angeles (2015). She has also curated a number of exhibitions and events in Europe, coordinating performers, students and researchers in a variety of different artistic and dance disciplines.

MARIO GARCÍA TORRES

Born in Monclova, Mexico, in 1975, Mario García Torres currently lives in Mexico City. His most recent one-man shows have been held in major exhibition venues including the Contemporary Art Centre in Bruxelles (2019), Walker Art Center in Minneapolis (2018), the Museum of Modern Art in Fort Worth (2015), the Pérez Art Museum in Miami (2014), the Project Arts Centre in Dublin (2013), the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid (2010) and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam (2007). He has also taken part in numerous international exhibition, including Manifesta 11 (2016), the Eighth Berlin Biennale (2014), DOCUMENTA (13), Kassel (2012), the São Paulo Biennale (2010), the Taipei Biennale (2010) the Yokohama Triennale (2008) and the Venice Biennale (2007).

OPAVIVARÁ!

A Brazilian collective of four anonymous young artists who live and work in Rio de Janeiro, Opavivará! produce their performances in public spaces as well as inside museums, galleries and cultural institutions throughout the world, creating installations, performances, publications, musical creations and video work. Since the collective was first set up in 2005, it has played an active role on the contemporary art scene in Brasil and has taken part in various collective exhibitions and festivals, including the Festival Performance Arte Brasil in Rio de Janeiro (Namoita, 2011), the Taipei Biennale (Formosa Decelerator, 2014), the Havana Biennale (Paladar Público, 2015), the RECONNECTA Festival in Vitória (Cosinha Coletiva, 2016) and the KM3 Public Art Walk in Montreal (In_Out, 2017).

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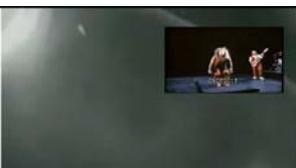
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PHOTO SHEET

High resolution images available from the Press Area on www.palazzostrozzi.org

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1	Cally Spooner <i>And you were wonderful, on stage</i> , 2013 – 2015. five-channel HD film installation, single-channel flat screen monitor, stereo sound, 43'26". Film Still Courtesy the artist and EMPAC, The Curtis R. Priem Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center, Troy, NY	
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5	Cally Spooner, Portrait (2016) Photo by Maris Hutchinson / EPW Studio	
MARIO GARCÍA TORRES		
6	Mario García Torres, <i>Falling Together in Time</i> . Video still. ©Mario García Torres. Courtesy the artist and Taka Ishii Gallery	
7	Mario García Torres, <i>Falling Together in Time</i> . Video still. ©Mario García Torres. Courtesy the artist and Taka Ishii Gallery	
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9	Mario García Torres, <i>Falling Together in Time</i> . Video still. ©Mario García Torres. Courtesy the artist and Taka Ishii Gallery	
10	Mario García Torres, <i>Falling Together in Time</i> , Installation view at Taka Ishii Gallery Tokyo. Photo by Kenji Takahashi. Courtesy the artist and Taka Ishii Gallery	
11	Mario García Torres. Photo by Angela Suarez 2018	
OPAVIVARÁ!		
12	of site-specific installation rendering for the Courtyard of Palazzo Strozzi <i>Rede Social</i> , 2019 (Rendering by Carlo Pellegrini)	
13	OPAVIVARÁ! <i>Rede Social</i> , installation view (details) at São Paulo (Espaço Cultural Porto Seguro), 2017. Courtesy the artists and A GENTIL CARIOCA	
14	OPAVIVARÁ! <i>Rede Social</i> , installation view (details) at São Paulo (Espaço Cultural Porto Seguro), 2017. Courtesy the artists and A GENTIL CARIOCA	

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