

IRREGULAR HEXAGON
COLOMBIAN ART
IN RESIDENCE

Gabriel Sierra

CerModern
Ankara, Turkey

Co-produced by the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Fundación Gilberto Alzate Avendaño, Bogotá

Gabriel Sierra

San Juan Nepomuceno, Colombia, 1975.
Lives in Bogotá, Colombia.

Trained as an industrial designer, Sierra swiftly made the transition to the artistic realm through objects that straddled art, design and architecture. His paradoxical and enigmatic objects are often borne of the acute observation of cultural particularities, customs, gestures, and tropes. His works combine erudite references to the history of art and design with vernacular traditions, and are imbued with humor and a certain sense of the absurd. For example, *Horno para calentar gatos* (oven to warm cats, 2004) is a *papier-mâché* enclosure that brings to mind the papery nests that wasps build and attach to the corners of trees and buildings; in terms of function, the owner's body provides the heat for the pet. *Apurador: horno para madurar frutas* (Accelerator: oven to ripen fruit, 2004), resorts to a similar formal principle, but this time invoking a long-standing Colombian tradition of wrapping fruit in newsprint in order to accelerate its ripening. *Hang it all-Stepmother Nature series* (2006), takes Charles and Ray Eames' iconic modernist design and turns it into a fruit rack; whereas *Sombra para bombillo que acompaña individuos solitarios* (Shadow for a lightbulb that accompanies solitary people, 2003) playfully turns around the lone person's proverbial fear of shadows by using a simple bulb with a cardboard stencil as a device to provide a reassuring presence.

On several occasions, Sierra has created the architectural overhaul of entire spaces (usually art-related, like the exhibition design for the Encuentro de Medellín MDE07 in Colombia, 2007 and the 28 São Paulo Biennial in Brazil, 2008), conceiving furniture that is both simple and extremely sophisticated in its formal refinement and the careful treatment of materials and details. For Medellín, he was trying to invoke a (fictive) design genealogy in a country that lacks a tradition of applied arts. His most recent projects often involve highlighting the functional or formal elements of the exhibition

For *Irregular Hexagon*, Sierra proposes a series of pieces made of wood and fabric that deal with how space is reconfigured, and proposes them as models for the viewer to play with. They expand on Sierra's longtime interests: functional archetypes, how the world is measured, how to alter the perception of space, and how we modify and inhabit it.

Irregular Hexagon Colombian art in residence

Irregular Hexagon consists of six distinct one-person exhibitions of artists from Colombia, which are hosted by six institutions, located in places as diverse as Vietnam, Morocco, Israel, Australia, Turkey and Singapore. Each artist does a three-week residency at two of the spaces, and each space hosts two artists over the course of a year. Each residency yields an exhibition, which consists of a small core of works that travels to the site and a complementary part that is produced in the host city during the three-week working period. These short-term residencies will provide the artists a unique opportunity to engage with the local context, its cultural particularities, its language and its images, which will surely result in new creative avenues for them.

The six artists were chosen because they represent an interesting cross-section of what is being done within the plural and vibrant contemporary art scene in Colombia. They are used to face unknown contexts and produce work in relation to it; indeed, traveling and responding to the specific place makes integral part of the artistic practice of many of them.

We hope that the experience is successful for both parties, the host and the visitor, and that it becomes a model for future incarnations of this collaboration, possibly involving local spaces in Colombia as hosts for artists from the participating countries.

José Roca, curator

The complete program consists of the following spaces/artists:

72-13, Singapore city, Singapore
Mateo López / María José Arjona
Cer Modern, Ankara, Turkey
Gabriel Sierra / Luz Ángela Lizarazo
Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne, Australia
Delcy Morelos / Gabriel Sierra
L'Appartement 22, Rabat, Morocco
Johanna Calle / Delcy Morelos
Jerusalem Center for the Visual Arts, Israel
María José Arjona / Mateo López
Sân Art, Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam
Luz Ángela Lizarazo / Johanna Calle

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia is pleased to present *Irregular Hexagon: Colombian Art in Residence*. This initiative intends to further the presence of Colombia in countries where new diplomatic relations are being created or reinforced, by allowing the interaction between contemporary Colombian artists and foreign avant-garde artistic movements.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia

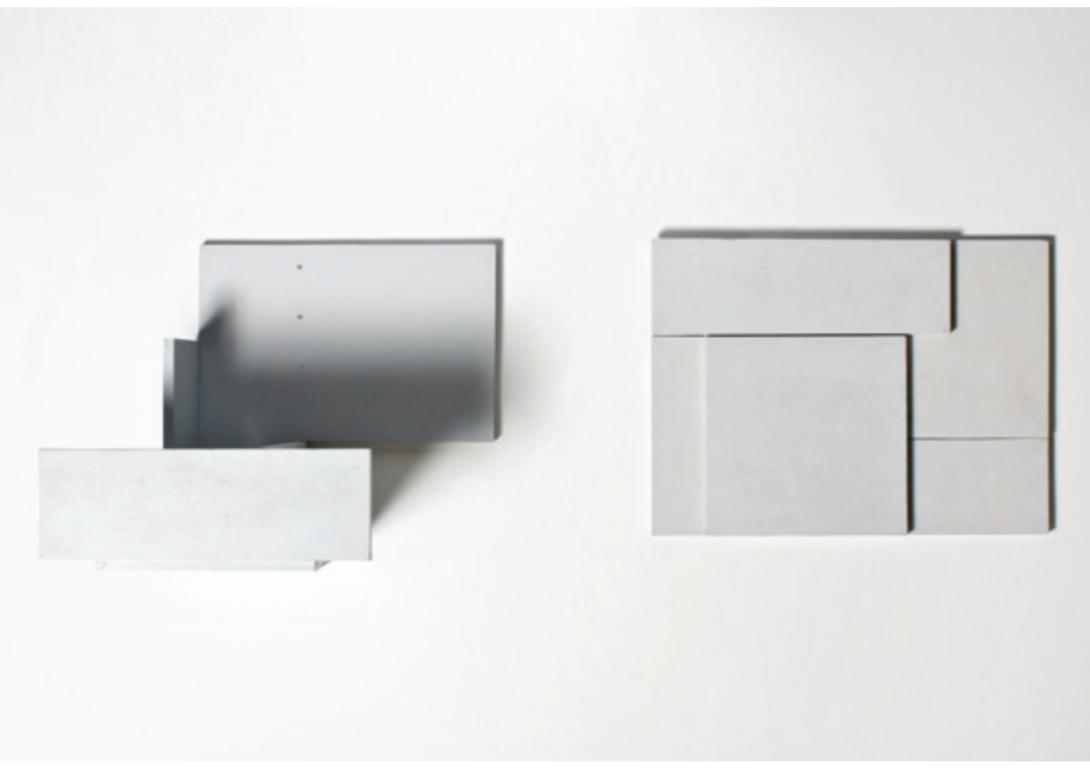
The Gilberto Alzate Avendaño Foundation, a Colombian public entity appointed to the mayor's office through the secretary of culture in Bogotá, has been particularly interested in the international promotion of Colombian art by means of different curatorial projects. Expanding its networks and exploring meaningful cultural exchange in recent years, the Foundation has organized diverse art exhibitions and art residencies in Colombia, France, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Cuba, Chile, Argentina and Bolivia. In December 2009, it began publishing the plastic and visual art magazine *Errato #* which is edited using high international standards. Now, in close alliance with the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the institution is opening residencies and art exhibitions in different cities throughout Asia, Africa and Australia for a small number of artists that develop some of the most interesting contemporary works presently found in Colombia.

Fundación Gilberto Alzate Avendaño, Colombia



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< Untitled-The Day as a Hole in the Middle of the Night, 2011
Untitled-Inerrupted Shelf, 2007



Gabriel Sierra
San Juan Nepomuceno, Colombia, 1975.
Kolombiya, Bogotá'da yaşıyor.

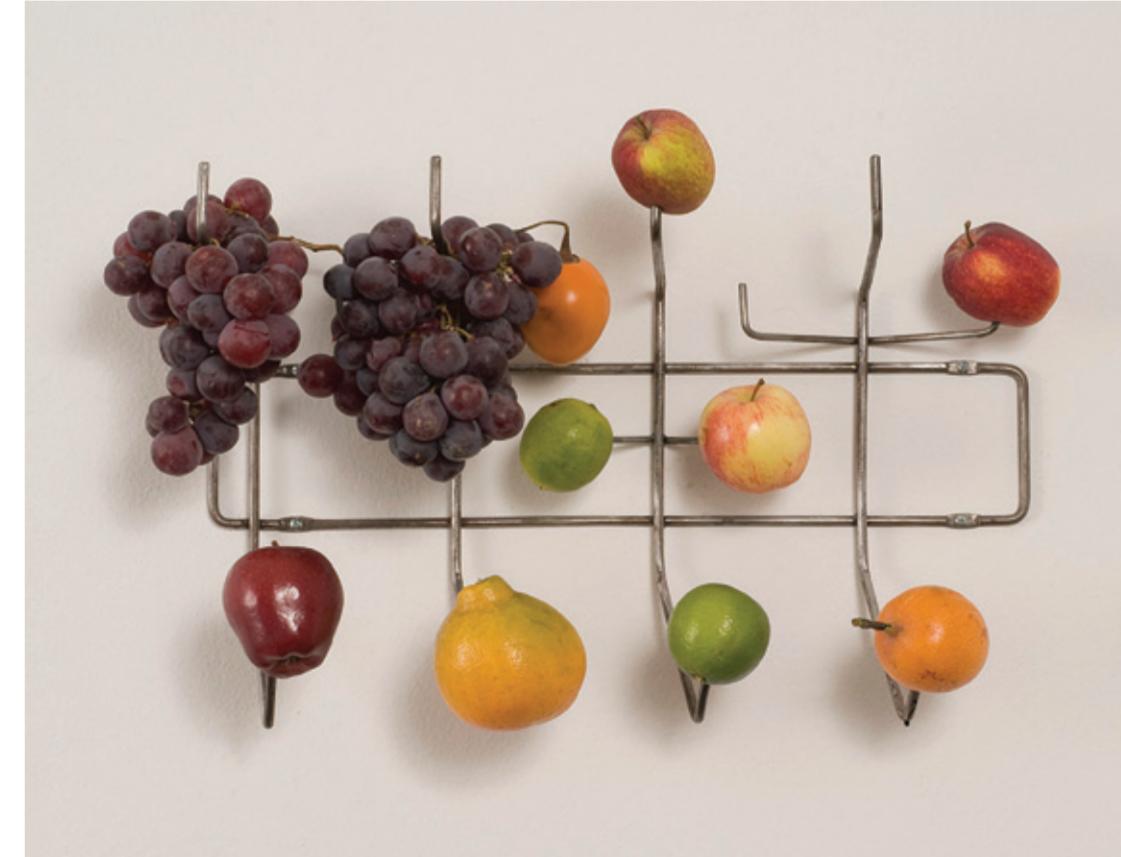
Endüstriyel tasarım eğitimi almış olan Gabriel Sierra, sanat, tasarım ve mimariyi bir araya getiren nesneler yoluyla sanat dünyasına hızla bir giriş yaptı. Yaratıcı paradoskal asla anlaşılması güç eserler coşullukla kültürel özelliliklerini, geleneklerin, işaret, mimik ve mecazların etkili incelemesinden doğmuştur. İşleri, sanat ve tasarım tarihinden yörensele geleneklere, birbirle bilimsel göndermeyi ve absurd bir mızah anlayışını içinde barındırır. Örneğin, Sıcak Kanılar İçin Fırın (*Horno para calentar gatos - Oven to Warm Cats*, 2004) eşekalarının, ağaçların ve binaların köşelerine yaptığı petekleri anımsatırken, işlevsel olarak da evcil hayvanları ısıtan insan vücutundan aktarılan kâğıt hamurdan yapılmış bir çittir.

Apurador-horno para madurar frutas (Olgun Meyveler için Fırın, 2004) benzer bir temel prensibe başvurmaktadır, bu defa da epeydir var olan bir Kolombiya geleneğini, daha hızlı olgunlaşmaları amacıyla meyveleri gazete kâğıdına sarmayı hedeflemektedir.

Kahretsin- Üvey ana Doğa (*Hang it all-Stepmother Nature series*, 2006) serisi Charles and Ray Eames'in ikonik modernist tasarımını alır ve onu bir meye askılığına dönüştürür. Kimesiz insanlara Eşlik Eden Bir Lamba İçin Gölge'de (*Sombra para bombillo que acompaña individuos solitarios*, Shadow For A Lightbulb That Accompanies Solitary People 2003) ise basit bir lambayı klavye şablonu ile kulanılgı güven verici ve rahatlaticı bir alete dönüştürerek, insanların yalnızken sıkça duymasaydıgı gölge korkusunu islemektedir.

Gabriel Sierra birçok defa, malzemeden biçimsel rötuşlarını hem basit hem de son derece karmaşık bir şekilde tasavvur edip, materyalin ve detayların dikkatli bir mirası açısından yeniden inşa etmiştir (genellikle sanatsal bağlamda, Kolombiya Encuentro de Medellín MDE07 tasarım sergisi-2007, Brezilya'da São Paulo Bienali-2008 gibi).

Medellín (Kolombiya'nın kuzeybatı kesiminde, Antioquia ilinin merkezi kenti) için O, uygulamalı sanat geleneğinden



Hang it all-Stepmother Nature series, 2006

< Horno para calentar gatos, 2004



Gabriel Sierra, Untitled (The Devil in Shape of a 2 X 4) / Untitled (The Devil in Shape of a Ladder) / Untitled (The Devil in Shape of a Table) / Untitled (The Devil in Shape of a Level), Detail, 2012



Yamuk Altigen Kolombiya'dan misafir sanat

Yamuk Altigen (Irregular Hexagon), altı Kolombiyalı sanatçının Vietnam, Fas, İsrail, Avustralya, Türkiye ve Singapur'u kapsayan geniş bir coğrafyadaki altı farklı kuruluşun ev sahipliğini yaptığı ferdi sergilerinden oluşuyor. Her sanatçı bu mekanlardan ikisinde üç hafta misafir olarak kalyor ve her mekâna yıl boyunca iki sanatçının konu etmiş oluyor. Her misafirlik döneni, esas kısma mekâna başka bir kaynakta getirilir bunu tamamlayıci kısma da ev sahibi şehirde bahsi geçen üç haftalık çalışma döneminde üretilen bir sergiyle sonlanıyor. Bu kısa dönem misafirlikler sanatçıyla yerel ortam

ve içerikle, onların kültürel incelikleri, dili ve simgeleriyle yeni yaratıcılık kapılarını aralayan bir teması kurmaları olanağını sağlıyor. Bu altı sanatçı, Kolombiya'nın çeşitlili ve heyecan verici modern sanat ortamında üretilenler içerisinde ilginç bir kesiti sunmalarına istinaden seçildi.

Bilimseyen ortamları tecrübe etmeye ve bu içerikle ilişkili iperisinde üretmeye alışık olan bu sanatçıların birçoğu için seyahat etmek ve seyahat edilen yerle etkileşime girmek sanatsal sürecin ayrılmaz bir parçasını oluşturuyor.

Umuyorum ki bu tecrübe hem ev sahibi hem de misafir için başarılı olur ve Kolombiya'yı katılan diğer ülkelerden çıkan misafir sanatçılara ziyaret

edecekleri mekanların arasına alarak bu işbirliği-nin geleceği için bir model oluşturur.

José Roca, küratör

Programda yer alacak mekan/sanatçılara aşağıda belirtilmektedir:

72-13, Singapur, Singapur
Mateo López / María José Arjona

Cer Modern, Ankara, Türkiye
Gabriel Sierra / Luz Ángela Lizarazo

Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne, Avustralya
Delcy Morelos / Gabriel Sierra

L'Appartement 22, Rabat, Fas
Johanna Calle / Delcy Morelos

Jerusalem Center for the Visual Arts, Kudüs, Israel
Maria José Arjona / Mateo López

Sân Art, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam
Luz Ángela Lizarazo / Johanna Calle

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