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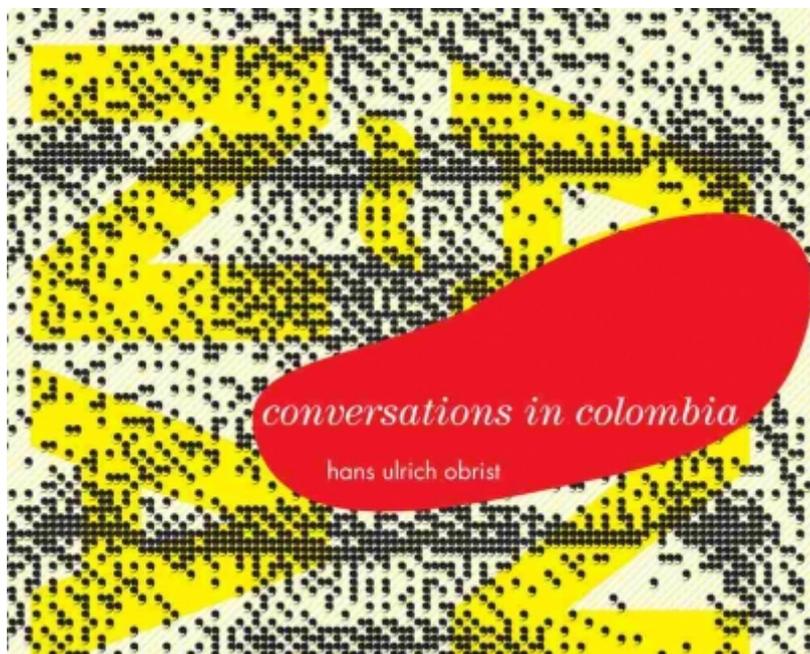
Conversations in Colombia: Hans Ulrich Obrist Interviews Miguel Ángel Rojas and María Fernanda Cardoso

Americas Society

May 5, 2017

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Overview



Americas Society

680 Park Avenue

New York, NY

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May 5, 2017

7:00 p.m.

This event is free and open to the public.

Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director, Serpentine Galleries, will interview artists Miguel Ángel Rojas and María Fernanda Cardoso. They will present *Conversations in Colombia*, a project he began in 2010 that turned into a comprehensive mapping of that country's artistic landscape. It is not only a book of interviews with artists, filmmakers, writers, and even the former mayor of

Bogotá, but a multilayered collaborative project with special contributions by artists.

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Image caption: Cover of *Conversations in Colombia*, 2015. Courtesy of Publisher La Oficina del Doctor-Casas Riegner, Bogotá.

Hans Ulrich Obrist (b. 1968 in Zurich, CH) is Artistic Director of the Serpentine Galleries, London. Prior to this, he was the Curator of the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris. Since his first show “*World Soup*” (*The Kitchen Show*) in 1991 he has curated more than 300 shows. In 2011 Obrist received the CCS Bard Award for Curatorial Excellence, and in 2015 he was awarded the International Folkwang Prize for his commitment to the arts. Obrist has lectured internationally at academic and art institutions, and is contributing editor to several magazines and journals. His recent publications include *Conversations in Mexico*, *Ways of Curating*, *The Age of Earthquakes* with Douglas Coupland and Shumon Basar, and *Lives of The Artists*, *Lives of The Architects*.

María Fernanda Cardoso (Bogotá, 1963) incorporates the rigors of scientific investigation into a body of work that moves between sculpture, photography, installation, and performance. Known internationally for her project *Cardoso Flea Circus* (1994–2000), the artist’s early works incorporated materials with a strong link to Colombian traditions and native animal species to create sculptures that, as described by Carolina Ponce de León, sought to displace, superimpose, and connect different cultural contexts. Her work is part of the permanent collections of important institutions such as: Tate Modern (London), Daros Latinamerica (Zurich), Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation (Miami), Colección Cisneros (Venezuela), Museum of Contemporary Art (Sydney), National Gallery of Australia (Canberra), and Museo de Arte del Banco de la República (Bogotá), among others. Cardoso lives and works in Sydney, Australia.

Miguel Ángel Rojas is a conceptual and multimedia artist whose work addresses subjective experience, identity, and politics. His projects have included indictments of international drug trafficking and violence, and much of his work focuses upon experiences of marginality. In 1973, he began one of his most important series of photographs, the Faenza series. Rojas took these photographs —of encounters between gay men at B-movie theaters in Bogotá— secretly, hiding his camera in a suitcase or under a jacket. The resulting images are ghostly records of the affective and physical experiences of a largely invisible community. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s Rojas also worked with engraving, drawing, video, intaglio, stitching, and photographic reductions. In the mid-

1990s, Rojas began using coca leaves in his work. Initially the works explored histories of indigenous life in Colombia, but over time Rojas began using them to comment upon the production of cocaine for consumption in the first world. Since the 1990s, he has used coca to reconstruct pop imagery, bringing consumerism into dialogue with widespread political and social problems. Rojas lives and works in Bogotá, Colombia.

