



CULTURA
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INBAL



La Biennale di Venezia

**58. Esposizione
Internazionale
d'Arte**

Partecipazioni Nazionali

***Acts of God* | Pavilion of Mexico**

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

I. Press release

Acts of God, a project by artist Pablo Vargas Lugo, curated by Magalí Arriola, starts from the cinematographic language to carry out a reflection not only about the concept of faith as a religious belief, but also about the ways in which our convictions are reflected - when not distorted and instrumentalized - in political discourse and cultural imaginary.

The work of Pablo Vargas Lugo opens a dialogue with the curatorial concept of the Biennale Arte 2019 proposed by Ralph Rugoff, to examine how we evaluate our actions in the world and the links we establish between the natural world, the geological and evolutionary time, and the mythical time, the moral choices and the aspirations of redemption.

May You Live In Interesting Times is a phrase that, for a long time, has been mistakenly interpreted as an ancient Chinese curse to invoke periods like the one we live in.

"*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. "

Acts of God takes the form of two films of approximately 15 minutes that, like two gears, will be intertwined thanks to some shared and easily identifiable iconic elements, but that will be reorganized in each tape in a different narrative sequence.

The entire film was made in Cuatrociénagas, Coahuila, a protected natural area that emphasizes the importance of preservation and reflection on Mexican biodiversity and endorses the commitment of the Government of Mexico to the promotion and dissemination of the work of its creators.



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The artistic production of Pablo Vargas Lugo usually takes elements from different disciplines such as astronomy, cartography and archeology, to develop visual and conceptual games that reflect the immediacy of perception, the conventions of communication and the cultural imaginary. As in his previous work, *Acts of God* displaces hierarchies and reimagines the cultural classifications that tend to structure Western thought.

The opening of the 58th International Art Exhibition to the public is scheduled for Saturday, May 11, 2019. *Acts of God* will be exhibited in the Sale d'Armi of The Arsenale of Venice until November 24.

II. Press Images

Pablo Vargas Lugo, *Acts of God*, 2019
Photography | Jessica Villamil

III. Exhibitors

Commissioner | Gabriela Gil Verenzuela
Artist | Pablo Vargas Lugo
Curator | Magalí Arriola
Exhibition Venue | The Arsenale
Assistant Curator | Andrea de la Torre
Assistant to the Artist | Jorge Scobell
Sound Composer | Juan Cristobal Cerrillo
Design | Estudio Herrera
Editorial Distribution | Mousse Publishing
Production | We Exhibit

Sponsors | Government of the State of Coahuila, Ministry of Culture of the State of Coahuila, Fundación Jumex, Aeroméxico, Hotel Hacienda 1800 and Grupo Habita.

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