

Bryan Giuseppe Rodriguez Cambana's work has been exhibited in galleries, museums and festivals internationally, including the 'Festival of The New Latin American Cinema Havana', Cuba (2013); 'Performeando 2015' at Queens Museum, NYC; 'Encuentro XI', Hemispheric Institute at NYU, D.F, Mexico (2018), and '37th Kassel Documentary Film and Video Festival', Kassel, Germany. In 2018 Cambana was a recipient of the 'Engaging Artists Fellowship' at More Art, NY, New York and presented 'Waiting for the Session to Begin', a Public Artwork, Coney Island, Brooklyn. He is currently the recipient of 'Goldsmiths ACME Studio Award'. Cambana was selected for 'Bloomberg's New Contemporaries 2021' exhibiting at First Site, Colchester and South London Gallery (2021).

Arianna Mercado is a cultural worker from Manila, the Philippines, currently based in London. In 2018, she co-founded Kiat Kiat Projects, a nomadic curatorial initiative that focuses on alternative exhibition formats. Mercado's research has focused on informal networks, geopolitical entanglements, and historical materialism in the Global South, previously working on projects with Asia-Art-Activism, London; Calle Wright, Manila, and the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Mercado was a recipient of the Purita Kalaw-Ledesma Prize for Art Criticism and her writing has been published in *Ocula*, *The Philippine Star*, and *Ctrl+P Journal of Contemporary Art*. In 2021, she co-curated the Pigeon Pavilion with Izzy Waite as part of the Bangkok Biennial, London, where she collaborated with Bryan Giuseppe Rodriguez Cambana.

Cell Project Space
258 Cambridge Heath Road
London E2 9DA
+44(0)207 241 3600
info@cellprojects.org
cellprojects.org

Developed with the generous support of
Arts Council England



Ópera de Balcón

Bryan Giuseppe Rodriguez Cambana

28th January–27th March 2022

Open 12-6pm Thursday-Sunday

Cell Project Space presents *Ópera de Balcón*, a solo exhibition of work by Peruvian artist Bryan Giuseppe Rodriguez Cambana. As part of the commissioning process, Rodriguez Cambana has worked in residence at the gallery for a period of four months and reopens the exhibition space by responding to sites of migration. *Ópera de Balcón* is the artist's most ambitious project to date: all at once a sculpture, theatre set, and performance.

In *Ópera de Balcón*, two balconies in a dimly lit space sing to each other from across the room. The song, written by Rodriguez Cambana, is a ballad hinged upon complications in romance, timing, and distance. Viewers are invited to decode intimate and covert messages shared between structures to uncover an opera coloured by militarised modes of communication, personal entanglements, and the political framings of migration and diaspora.

This exhibition is a continuation of Rodriguez Cambana's inquiry into the spectrum of Black and indigenous communities, their formation, and fictions. His practice has strived to complicate notions of 'community.' Critiquing imaginaries of purity, Rodriguez Cambana negotiates difference, its contradictions and shifting landscapes.

Ópera de Balcón mirrors the physical spaces that act as intimate communicators between communities within the surreal experience of migration, likening it to a mystical-play and performative gesture in which surroundings are in constant transition. The exhibition considers the balcony as a witness, sniper post, and archive, all the while its messaging is subversive and coded as it plays out the theatre of romance.

Through his own lived experience, Rodriguez Cambana reflects on and engages with a (his) community: one that he knows as irrational, contradictory, and poor. Hoping to shatter illusions of equality, *Ópera de Balcón* brings in the material realities of class, operating through the intersections of the 'public' and 'private'.

A forthcoming tour of the exhibition that will connect audiences with Rodriguez Cambana's work will be presented by the curator along with a public programme that explores and celebrates coded (love) messages.

Curated by Arianna Mercado.



cellprojects.org

Upstairs

1. *Balcony 1, 2022*

Mixed media

290cm x 182cm x 81cm

2. *Balcony 2, 2022*

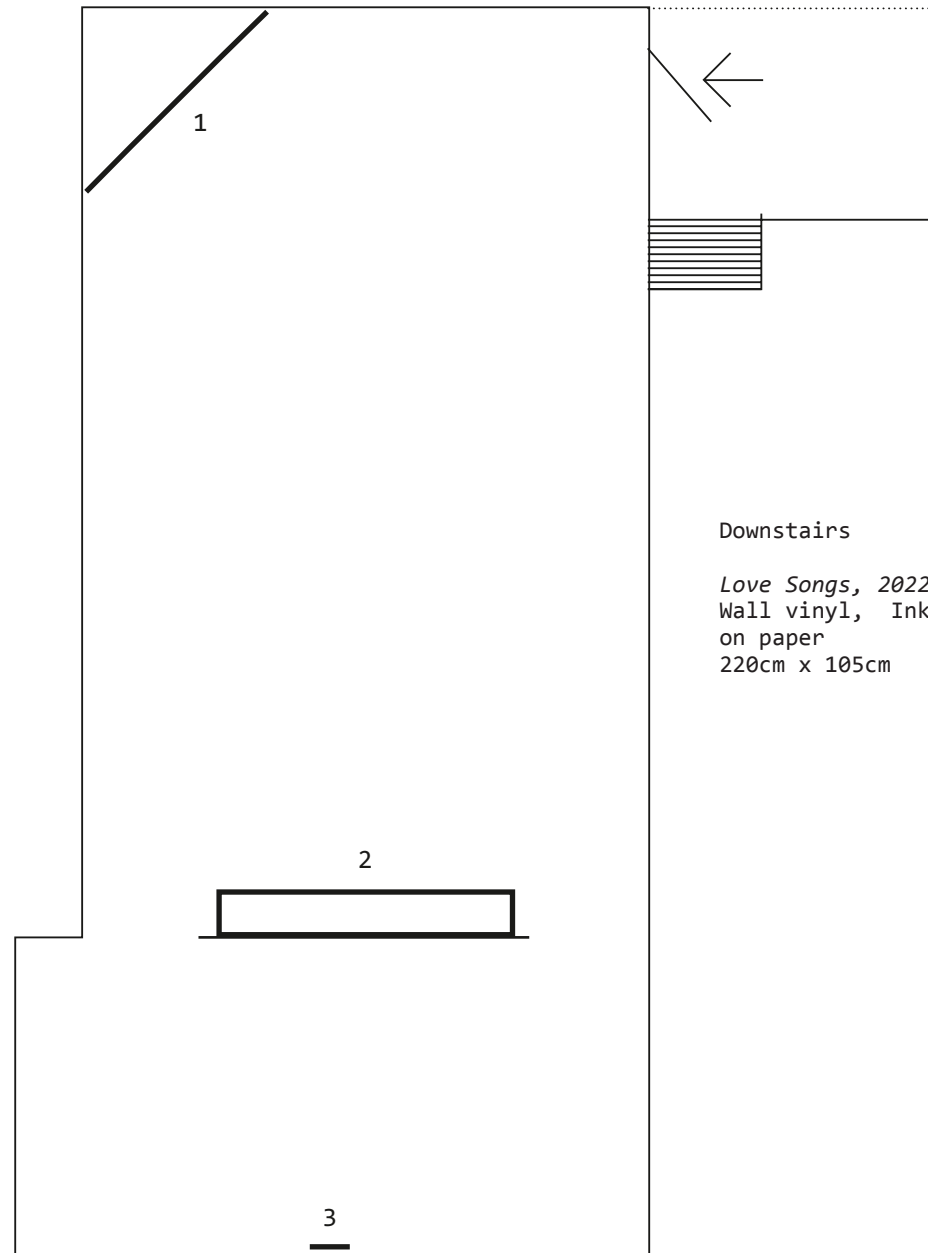
Mixed media

290cm x 274cm x 99.5cm

3. *Track, 2022*

Audio file

2:06 min



Downstairs

Love Songs, 2022

Wall vinyl, Ink
on paper

220cm x 105cm