



Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***We didn't ask permission, we just did it...* revisits three influential exhibition series in Puerto Rico, opening September 9**



Ignacio González Lang, *Open Mic. Fortaleza #302* (detail), 2000. Featured in M&M proyectos' *PR '00 Paréntesis en la Ciudad*, Artistic Director Michy Marxuach, October 9–14, 2000, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Courtesy the artist and Michy Marxuach.

August 16, 2022 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents *We didn't ask permission, we just did it...*, an exhibition guest curated by Embajada co-founders Christopher Rivera and Manuela Paz. On view at CAM from September 9, 2022 through February 12, 2023, the show spotlights three key exhibitions that had a hand in shaping many artist practices both in Puerto Rico and internationally.

We didn't ask permission, we just did it... revisits three seminal exhibition series in Puerto Rico, from 2000 to 2016, that foregrounded the independent spirit of art making in the region. The original projects include M&M Proyectos' *PR Invitational*, organized by curator and researcher Michy Marxuach; the *Gran Tropical Bienal*, founded by curator Pablo León de la Barra; and *Cave-In*, initiated by gallerist Mike Egan. The exhibitions, which took the form of idiosyncratic biennials, happenings, and installations, have had lasting impacts on practicing artists and in part spurred the self-reliant gallery community

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10–5 Thu
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that flourishes in San Juan, Puerto Rico today. Drawing on the archives of each project, the exhibition features a selection of works by Puerto Rican and international artists working in an array of unconventional materials, along with documentation and ephemera. *We didn't ask permission, we just did it...* conveys the sense of ambition, collective action, and self-sufficiency of experimental artist communities despite infrastructural limitations.

Exhibiting artists include: Allora & Calzadilla, Lucas Blalock, Borden Capalino, Carolina Caycedo, Lourdes Correa-Carlo, Edmee Feyyo, Radamés “Juni” Figueroa, Jorge González Santos, Vanessa Hernández Garcia, Federico Herrero, Alana Iturralde, Jessica Kaire, Ajay Kurian, Ignacio González Lang, José Lerma, Manuel Mendoza Sánchez, Liliana Porter, Daniel Lind Ramos, Matilsha Marxuach, Lionel Maunz, Andy Meerow, Jesús “Bubu” Negrón, Damián Ortega, Ernesto Pujol, Dhara Rivera, Jorge Rivera, Joel “Yoyo” Rodríguez, Monica Rodriguez, Marxz Rosado, Chemi Rosado-Seijo, Beatriz Santiago Muñoz, Edra Soto, Andra Ursuta, and Alterazioni Video.

We didn't ask permission, we just did it... is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by guest curators Manuela Paz and Christopher Rivera of Embajada, San Juan.

The exhibition is generously supported in part by the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation, Whitaker Foundation, Berezdivin Collection, Bernard I. Lumpkin and Carmine D. Boccuzzi, Nada and Michael Gray, and Eric and Tamara Schimmel. Special thanks to Barrett Barrera Projects. Street Views is generously supported by the Whitaker Foundation. The artist talk is sponsored by the Robert Lehman Foundation.

WHITAKER FOUNDATION

Related Events

Friday, September 9

Patron and Press Preview 10:00–11:30 am

Member Preview 5:00–6:00 pm

Public Opening 6:00–9:00 pm

For press access on September 9th, RSVP to Samantha Lyons, Communications Specialist, at slyons@camstl.org. Guest curator Christopher Rivera of Embajada will be in attendance.

Saturday, October 1, 10:00 am–noon

Artist Workshop: Seed Grenade Recipes with Monica Rodriguez

To schedule a Zoom or phone interview with exhibition organizers Manuela Paz and Christopher Rivera throughout the fall/winter exhibition season, please contact slyons@camstl.org.

About Embajada

Founded in 2015, and named after the Spanish word for embassy, Embajada is a gallery

based in San Juan, Puerto Rico which serves as a bridge connecting artists on the island with the rest of the world, fostering connections to the contemporary art world. For more information, visit embajadada.com.



About the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis creates meaningful engagement with the most relevant and innovative art being made today. Founded by civic and cultural leaders in 1980, the Museum transformed from a small gallery into an internationally recognized arts institution, now permanently housed in a flexible, open, and inviting building designed by renowned American architect Brad Cloepfil. CAM's distinct architecture reflects the organization's values and supports a dynamic range of exhibitions, public programs, educational initiatives, and community collaborations. The only museum in the region solely dedicated to contemporary art, CAM is one of the preeminent non-collecting institutions of its kind in the United States. We are a site for discovery, a welcoming space, free and open to all. For more information, visit camstl.org.

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