



GALLERIACONTINUA

SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING LES MOULINS HABANA

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JOSÉ ANTONIO SUÁREZ LONDOÑO

A New Larousse

Opening: Friday September 23rd 2016, Via del Castello 11, 6pm-midnight
Until 15.01.2017, Monday-Sunday, 10am-1pm, 2-7pm

Galleria Continua is pleased to present **José Antonio Suárez Londoño's** first solo exhibition in Italy in its exhibition spaces in San Gimignano. The project provides a comprehensive view of the Colombian artist's work: an itinerary that includes drawings, notebooks, and etchings, starting from the works of the early 80's up to those created over the past year.

Since the very beginning, **Suárez Londoño** used traditional media such as watercolour, pencil and ink for his drawings, and etching; in the Eighties, he produced his first rubber stamps that he still uses in his prints, thus enriching them with an alphabet of very personal images. For the artist, drawing is a daily activity regulated by discipline, and requiring rigour, concentration, solitude and silence. He describes it as *"Hacer siempre lo mismo y siempre hacerlo distinto"* (always doing the same thing, always doing it differently). Drawing is a practice that allows him to know the world,

to represent it and to establish a relationship with it.

José Antonio Suárez Londoño favours the intimate format of notebooks. In any case, his works never exceed the size of an A4 sheet. In 1997, he completed his first notebook and dedicated it to a book by Brian Eno, *A Year with Swollen Appendices*. Every day for an entire year, Suárez Londoño made a drawing and translated into images the diary of the British musician and composer. Year after year, this was followed by other notebooks dedicated to the most diverse personages: from Paul Klee, Edgar Degas, Vincent Van Gogh, Rembrandt Van Rijn to Rainer Maria Rilke and Rimbaud, from Patty Smith to actor and playwright Sam Shepard, from Catalan philosopher Raimundo Paniker to W.G. Sebald and many writers of the Beat Generation. Invited in 2013 by Massimiliano Gioni to take part in the 55th Venice Biennale, the artist introduced himself for the first time to the Italian public with a series of drawings dedicated to Franz Kafka's diaries.

José Antonio Suárez Londoño's rich artistic production can only be classified based on the comprehensiveness, persistence and intimacy of his drawings. Books, objects, daily situations, songs, news, popular phrases, art history and press images provide the inspiration that underpins his works, which can also be read as personal diaries where the language fluctuates between image and text.

José Antonio Suárez Londoño born in 1955 in Medellín, Colombia, where he lives and works. After studying biology at the Universidad de Antioquia, in 1978 the artist entered the École Supérieure des Arts Visuels in Geneva, where he studied for six years. He has participated in important international exhibitions including: *The Yearbooks*, Drawing Center, New York, USA, 2012 and *The Modern Myth: Drawing Mythologies in Modern Times*, MoMA, New York, USA, 2010. Collections of his works are at the Banco de la República, Colombia, the Graphische Sammlung Albertina, Vienna, Austria, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, USA, not to mention the many private collections in Brazil, Great Britain, Germany, the United States and Colombia. In September the artist will take part in the 32nd Biennale of Sao Paulo in Brazil.

For further information about the exhibition and for photographs:

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