

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center

Museum of Modern Art affiliate
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EXHIBITION PRESS RELEASE

CARLOS MOTTA

June 28 through September 14, 2009.

Opening Day Celebration: June 28, 2009, 12-6 PM.

(Long Island City, NY — June 25, 2009) P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center announces a new exhibition program entitled “On-site.” Continuing P.S.1’s long standing tradition of commissioning in-situ projects such as the “Vertical Painting” series (1997), the first incarnation of this new program will focus on wall paintings, an art form that has a long history in New York City. As part of this program, P.S.1 presents *Brief History*, (2005-2009), the first solo project in a New York museum by Colombian-born, New York-based artist Carlos Motta. Working primarily in photography, video and installation, Motta engages political history by employing strategies used in documentary genres and sociology in order to interrogate governmental structures, to observe the repercussions of political events, and to suggest alternative ways in which to interpret those histories.

Brief History, on view in P.S.1’s Lobby space, consists of a black vinyl mural and an edition of two newspapers. This installation is part of the *SOA Cycle* (2005-2009) a project through which the artist examines the School of the Americas (SOA)—a Cold War institution sponsored by the U.S. government to train Latin American soldiers in counterinsurgency tactics and military strategy, originally established with the aim to prevent the spread of communism in Latin America.

The large black image in the lobby titled *SOA: Black and White Pain-ting # 15* (2005-09) was appropriated from a Colombian newspaper and depicts a group of soldiers advancing with guns drawn. This abstracted and de-contextualized image confronts the viewer with a war scene but does not reveal who is fighting against whom. The newspapers, which are free for visitors to take, respectively present a brief history of U.S. interventions in Latin America and a history of leftist guerrillas in the same region, both spanning the years of the Cold War. *Brief History* engages a history of “enemy” ideologies.

Carlos Motta (b. Bogotá, Colombia, 1978) lives and works in New York. He has had solo shows at the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), Philadelphia (2008); Konsthall C, Stockholm (2009); Fundación Alzate Avendaño, Bogotá (2009); Smack Mellon, Brooklyn (2009) and Art in General, New York (2008); and has been included in group exhibitions such as the upcoming *X Biennale de Lyon* (2009); *The Greenroom*, CCS Bard Hessel Museum of Art, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York (2008); *Soft Manipulation*, Casino Luxembourg (2008); *5x5 Castelló*, Espai d'Art Contemporani de Castelló, Spain (2009) and *Democracy in America*, Creative Time, New York (2008).

Carlos Motta is organized by Klaus Biesenbach, Chief Curator, Department of Media and Performance Art, The Museum of Modern Art and Chief Curatorial Advisor, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center.

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center

Background:

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is one of the largest and oldest organizations in the United States solely devoted to contemporary art. Established in 1976 by Alanna Heiss, P.S.1 originated from The Institute for Art and Urban Resources, a not-for-profit organization founded five years prior with the mission of turning abandoned, underutilized buildings in New York City into artist studios and exhibition spaces. P.S.1 became an affiliate of The Museum of Modern Art in 2000.

Support:

Operations and programs of P.S.1 are supported by the P.S.1 Board of Directors; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Helen M. Marshall, Queens Borough President; The Council of the City of New York; and the P.S.1 Annual Fund, supported by The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, David Teiger, Union Beer Distributors, Dorothy Lichtenstein, Galerie Lelong, E. William Judson, Jane K. Lombard, Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation, Inc., Barbara Gladstone, Mathis Pfohl Foundation, The Herman Liebmann Foundation, Bobby Kopp + Co. Productions, and other donors.

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Directions:

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Avenue in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. It is easily accessible by bus and subway. Traveling by subway, visitors should take either the E or V to 23 Street-Ely Avenue (note that the V does not run on weekends); the 7 to 45 Road-Courthouse Square; or the G to Court Square or 21 Street-Van Alst. Visitors may also take the Q67 bus to Jackson and 46th Avenues or the B61 to Jackson Avenue.

Hours:

P.S.1 is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday. It is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day.

- artbook@PS1 is open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursday through Sunday.
- LeRosier Café is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday.

Admission:

Admission is a \$5.00 suggested donation; \$2.00 for students and senior citizens; free for MoMA members and MoMA admission ticket holders. The MoMA ticket must be presented at P.S.1 within thirty days of date on ticket and is not valid during Warm Up or other P.S.1 events or benefits.

Web Sites:

www.ps1.org • www.moma.org

Contact:

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