

Press release
Zurich, 3 November 2017

Kunsthhaus Zürich presents the first solo exhibition by Abraham Cruzvillegas

Art as expression and mirror of society – that is the theme of ‘Autorreconstrucción: Social Tissue’, a project by the Mexican artist Abraham Cruzvillegas who receives his first museum exhibition in Switzerland from 16 February to 25 March 2018 at the Kunsthhaus Zürich. This short presentation will be a ‘happening’, with the artist creating new works live before the audience, assisted by local people.

The Mexican artist Abraham Cruzvillegas (b. 1968) is receiving his first exhibition in Switzerland. In his works and space-filling installations, he investigates sculpture as the expression of social conditions. His artistic practise is imbued with a sense of constant becoming. Improvisation, working with found materials and interacting with local people play a key role. Cruzvillegas will be transforming the 1,000-square-metre presentation space into a workshop, in which new works will take shape during the exhibition and a range of events will be held. At the end of the presentation, the new creations will be assembled into a complete installation, transposing the concept of dynamic process that is key to Cruzvillegas’s work into the exhibition format itself.

A PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION

Cruzvillegas’s method is based on his own experience. He grew up in Ajusco, a volcanic landscape south of the Mexican capital. Here, in the wake of the rural exodus, he witnessed families teaming up with their new neighbours to construct makeshift, self-built housing using rudimentary materials found nearby, and adapting it to their changing needs. For Cruzvillegas, the sculptural form thus becomes a process of transformation, action and solidarity, in which collaboration with others plays a central role.

INVOLVING LOCAL PEOPLE

In Zurich, Cruzvillegas will also be working closely with people locally. Throughout the short, five-week exhibition students from the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) and local craftspeople will be helping him create new works.

A HAPPENING ABOUT FILM, MUSIC, SOCIAL ISSUES, NATURE AND ART

A range of events and activities are planned to accompany the exhibition. They include a weekly film screening in an improvised cinema, regular workshops with children and young people, and courses with refugees. Lyrics written by Abraham Cruzvillegas about his sculptures will also be set to music by various bands and musicians in Zurich, with rehearsals taking place in the exhibition gallery. The events programme, as well as progress on the works, can be viewed on the exhibition website and experienced live from 16 February. Public guided tours (in German only) take place on Sundays at 11 a.m. and on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

PUBLICATION WITH ACTIVIST INVOLVEMENT

Curator Mirjam Varadinis is responsible for both the idea behind the exhibition and the accompanying publication, which will appear in two parts. The first contains an in-depth interview with the artist as well as short contributions and poems by activists, environmentalists, writers and musicians. The second will accompany the creation of the new works during the exhibition at the Kunsthaus and will contain a complete collection of Cruzvillegas's song lyrics.

FIRST EXHIBITION IN SWITZERLAND: AN EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCE

The exhibition by Abraham Cruzvillegas is an opportunity to actually watch a contemporary artist at work. It is a unique experience and a whole new way of accessing art. Also novel is Cruzvillegas's inclusion of non-human organisms that visitors will encounter in the exhibition, in a continuation of the artist's engagement with issues of climate change and its consequences.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich

Tel. +41 (0)44 253 84 84, www.kunsthaus.ch.

Fri–Sun/Tues 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Wed, Thurs 10 a.m.–8 p.m. For public holiday opening see www.kunsthaus.ch

Admission to the exhibition including the publication and two re-entries: CHF 23 / CHF 18 (concessions and groups). Combination tickets including the collection and exhibition CHF 26 / CHF 19. Admission free to visitors up to the age of 16.

Advance sales: SBB RailAway combination ticket, with discount on travel and admission: at stations and by phoning Rail Service 0900 300 300 (CHF 1.19/min. by land line), www.sbb.ch/kunsthaus-zuerich.

Zurich Tourism: hotel room reservations and ticket sales, Tourist Service at Zurich Main Railway Station, tel. +41 44 215 40 00, information@zuerich.com, www.zuerich.com.

CONTACT AND INVITATION TO EDITORS

The press conference with Abraham Cruzvillegas and curator Mirjam Varadinis takes place at 11 a.m. on Thursday 15 February (doors open at 10.30 a.m.). Registration is not required. For interviews, radio and TV recordings, please contact Kristin Steiner in advance. Visual materials are available at kunsthaus.ch > Information > Press.

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