

Press release
Zurich, 15 February 2018

Kunsthaus 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.

LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

In Zurich, Cruzvillegas will once again be working closely with local assistants, teaming up with students and craftspeople to create the new works that will comprise the final installation.

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

A range of events and activities are planned to accompany the exhibition. The events programme is a collaboration with various people from Zurich and includes weekly film screenings, workshops, discussions as well as skateboarding afternoons and a club for children. ‘Abendschule Import’ will be

offering evening classes in which refugees share their knowledge. Zurich based bands will be taking lyrics composed by Abraham Cruzvillegas to accompany his sculptures, setting them to music and performing them in a live concert every Thursday. The concert series is a cooperation with Bar 3000. Performance artist and cook Sandra Knecht will be moving her monthly 'Immer wieder sonntags' dinner to the Kunsthaus – and there's much more besides. The events programme, as well as progress on the works, can be viewed on the exhibition website <http://cruzvillegas.kunsthaus.ch/en> and experienced live. Updates and impressions will be posted regularly on the Kunsthaus's Facebook page and on Instagram (#socialtissue). 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, intellectuals, poets and writers. The second will accompany the creation of the new works during the exhibition at the Kunsthaus and will be published during the last week of 'Autorreconstrucción: Social Tissue'.

FIRST EXHIBITION IN SWITZERLAND: AN EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCE

The exhibition by Abraham Cruzvillegas is an opportunity to watch new artworks actually being created. It is a unique experience and a whole new way of accessing art.

Supported by Swiss Re – Partner for contemporary art, the Dr. Georg and Josi Guggenheim Foundation and the artEDU Stiftung.

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

This press release as well as images are available at www.kunsthhaus.ch > Information > Press. The press images will be updated during the exhibition. For further information, contact:

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