

Press release

Exhibitions

18 August 2006

OSCAR MUÑOZ

The Wing, The Project Room

8 September through 5 November 2006

Information day on Friday, 8 September, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Information event open to the public on Friday, 8 September, at 12 noon.

Exhibition opening on Friday, 8 September at 6 p.m. Welcome!

In this exhibition Colombian Oscar Muñoz opens up Latin America for us for a moment, showing us its art and its people.

Poverty, drugs, crime, political unrest and kidnappings. Three out of every four kidnappings in the world take place in Latin America. Victims of politics, economics and everyday life, people simply vanish – or a ransom is extorted from their families. A person is a means, a victim, a loved one – or, as in the exhibition, a work of art.

Confronting fears and overcoming phobias is something that everyone has to deal with at times in their lives. Fear is a safe and natural way of confronting the frightful. Fear is healthy, when you don't let it limit your life. In Colombia, the fear of kidnappings has turned from an epidemic to a pandemic – everywhere, people are afraid of disappearing. It seems an absurd notion, even though the reality of it is not that far-fetched. When we in the West and in Scandinavia lose a loved one, we have no chance of getting them back. A person dies and all we can do is imagine what happens after death. In a kidnapping, however, there is the knowledge that the person we miss is still there, somewhere, even if we can't be with them.

In his works, Oscar Muñoz traces the presence and return of the people who have vanished, bringing them back to us. In the installation *Aliento/Breath*, Muñoz requires the audience to participate: as spectators breathe onto metal plates, the breath brings back the faces of people who have been lost – only for them to disappear again in a moment. In the video work *Re/trato*, Muñoz paints faces with water on stone – faces that dry in the instant they are painted. Each second, the paintbrush creates a new human portrait, demanding that the viewer focus on an intense, poetic story of a face that is never completed. In his work *Narciso*, Muñoz is the model for a narcissistic man; his mirror image has been created through sprinkling charcoal on water, an image that disappears as the surface of the water moves.

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Born in 1951 in Popayán, Colombia, Oscar Muñoz now lives and works in Cali, Colombia.

For more information about the exhibition, contact: exhibition curator Laura Selin, phone 02-621 1089, e-mail laura.selin@pori.fi

For photographs, go to: www.poriartmuseum.fi > tiedotusvälineet > lue lisää näyttelystä > lehdistökuvia

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