

RGR

Galería RGR presents
The Afterwake:
Anaïs Horn & Pedro Zylbersztajn

July 27 / September 9, 2023

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Anaïs Horn, *Untitled*, from the series *Hush... Hush, Sweet Charlotte*, 2021–2023. (Detail)
Image courtesy of the artist and Galería RGR, Mexico.

Galería RGR is pleased to present the exhibition *The Afterwake*, which brings together the work of Anaïs Horn (Graz, Austria) and Pedro Zylbersztajn (São Paulo, Brazil - 1993) under the curatorship of Gabriela Rangel (Caracas, Venezuela, 1963).

Inspired by the homonymous poem by Adrienne Rich, *The Afterwake* invites the viewer to enter an evocative experience on time as a transition and an unfathomable interval through the analogy of the waves left by a ship in the water.

The multi-layered installation *Longing Ghosts in Deep Blue Paranoia* by Anaïs Horn presents a fictional scene of Empress Charlotte of Belgium, who was confined for almost 50 years in Belgium after the execution of her husband, Emperor Maximilian of Habsburg in 1867. Recalling the daguerreotype technique –whose peak coincides with the Habsburg dynasty decline—Horn situated Charlotte's delirium at their Italian home.

The tragic fate of the delusional empress is represented through a series of blurry images printed on mirrors, a single-channel video projection of ghostly images, and drawings. These elements are juxtaposed in a dense atmosphere accompanied by a hypnotic fragrance created by Pauline Rochas, a sound atmosphere by Eilert Asmervik, and texts composed by Estelle Hoy.

Pedro Zylbersztajn presents four conceptual works starting with *Écfrase de um filme (pausado)*, a complex exercise of narration in which a room is described in detail as it appears in a film. The story is characterized by an intricate and abstract structure that takes the shape of wall writing. A video projection *Three Digestions* explores the notions of consumption and colonial extraction as they relate to our practices – and infrastructures – of knowledge and culture. *Sentimental Journey* presents an exploration of feedback and delay through a synchronized action of four delegated performers. By contrast, *Servimos bien para servir siempre* frames the social fabric of the opening of the show as the performance itself.

As part of the exhibition, on **Saturday, July 29 at 12:00**, a conversation will be held with the participation of the artists Anaïs Horn and Pedro Zylbersztajn, as well as the curator Gabriela Rangel, to delve into the process that led to the realization of this project.

About Gabriela Rangel

Gabriela Rangel is an independent curator, writer based in Brooklyn, New York. From 2019 to 2021 she was artistic director of the Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (MALBA). Prior to that she was visual arts director and chief curator at Americas Society from 2004 to 2019. She holds an MA in curatorial studies from the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, an MA in media and communications studies from the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, Caracas, and film studies from the International Film School at San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba. She has worked at the Fundación Cinemateca Nacional and the Museo Alejandro Otero in Caracas, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Rangel have curated and co-curated numerous exhibitions on modern and contemporary art as well as monographic shows of Elsa Gramcko, Erick Meyenberg, Sylvia Gruner, Carlos Cruz-Diez, Marta Minujín, Gordon Matta-Clark, Gego, Arturo Herrera, José Leonilson, and Xul Solar. She has written for *Hyperallergic*, *Letras Libres*, *Revista Ñ*, *Art in America*, *Parkett*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, and *Art Nexus*, edited numerous books, and contributed texts to such publications as *Emily Mae Smith* (Petzeld Gallery, New York); *Pedro Reyes: Sociatry* (Museum Marta Hertford, Hertford, Germany, 2022); *Rosangela Renno* (Pinacoteca de SP, 2021); *Erick Meyenberg: D Major Isn't Blue* (Museo Amparo, 2020); *Lydia Cabrera: Between the Sum and the Parts* (Americas Society/Koenig Books, London, 2019); *Contesting Modernity: Informalism in Venezuela 1955–1975* (Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 2018); *Marta Minujín, Minocodes* (Americas Society, 2016); and *A Principality of Its Own* (Americas Society/Harvard University Press, 2006). She is currently working on her book *Strategies of Self Sabotage: Art and Politics in Venezuela 1959-1973*.

About Anaïs Horn

— With a literature and design education, Anaïs Horn graduated from Friedl Kubelka School for Fine Art Photography, Vienna, in 2015. Horn's practice creates intimate, often site-specific settings in which highly personal narratives —may they be autobiographical, explore female coming-of-age and rites of passage or reflect on the biographies of historical (female) figures— evolve into general reflections on contemporary life and how memories and (her)story/stories reverberate in objects and spaces.

Her work intertwines photography, moving images and sound, text, drawing and painting with the aim of being poetic and precise at the same time. Her images take shape by exploring surfaces and objects, and they frequently unfold into spatial installations and artist's books. Next to personal narratives she is introducing elements of illusion and mystery, trying to situate her work in a space of the in-between.

Currently lives and works in Paris, France.

About Pedro Zylbersztajn

— From the interactions between drawing, writing, editing, publishing, performing, collecting and sounding, the artistic practice of Pedro Zylbersztajn investigates the circular relationship between image, language, protocols of everydayness, technology, and authority. His research employs strategies of reading with the intention of defamiliarizing the way in which commonplace devices are used to build and enforce specific (and sometimes violent) relations between the different realities that surround us. With that, he seeks to create altered relational spaces, which are more reliant on ambiguity and negotiation.

More recently, his artistic practice seeks to expand toward collective environments in which the sense of shared responsibilities overrides authorial intentions. Currently, is co-editor -in collaboration with the Index Literacy Programme- of a publication titled *Indexing Imaginaries* (DATA Browser/Open Humanities Press, 2022), which explores the concept of indexing as a form of power. He is involved in the micro-histórias initiative at Casa do Povo (SP), which focuses on researching institutional history and he is the coordinator of a multidisciplinary research group called *Disposições Infraestruturais*, which delves into issues related to art, architecture, and planetarity.

Currently lives and works in São Paulo, Brazil.

About Galería RGR

— Galería RGR was founded in 2012 and established in Mexico City in November 2018 by its founder Ricardo González. The gallery creates critical dialogues around international contemporary art production through its exhibition program, exploring abstraction as a base language.

It represents artists of historical relevance, such as Carlos Cruz-Diez, Gego, Jesús Rafael Soto, Julio Le Parc, and Oswaldo Vidas, as well as contemporary artists from America, Europe, and Asia, such as Diego Pérez, Ding Yi, Elias Crespin, Felipe Pantone, Francisco Muñoz, Magalí Lara, Matthias Bitzer, Patrick Hamilton, among others.

Notes for editors

— Title: *The Afterwake: Anaïs Horn & Pedro Zylbersztajn*
Dates: July 27 - September 9, 2023.
Conversation with artists and curator: Saturday, July 29, 12:00h.