

**IVÁN ARGOTE**

## ***Setting Up a System***

From **November 21st** 2015 to **January 30th** 2016

**Opening:** Saturday November 21st from 12pm.



*La puesta en marcha de un sistema (2015)*

In his second solo exhibition in Barcelona, Iván Argote presents at ADN Galeria ***La puesta en marcha de un sistema*** (Setting up a system), where the empirical and the speculative intertwine in order to build relationship systems within a sphere in which Argote appropriates, analyses, recycles and deconstructs ideological and historical filters.

Focusing on a series of specific cases that revolve around the global and the everyday, the Colombian artist develops a work that draws on the deconstructive method to question, in line with Derrida's thinking, the authority of images and language and to affirm the need for memory. Hence the constant reference to personal experiences, everyday gestures, political fantasies, facts and actions, which creates a complex system of interactions between the contemporary and the inherited structures of the past; a system sometimes full of ritual and collective habits.

Iván Argote dialogues with History through a subversive updating of its ideological symbols. In ***Lo que nos sobra (2015)***, the artist's erosive action transforms a classical-style statue representing a lion, associated in the Western tradition with nobility and power, into an amorphous object, robbing it of its significance. The identifying traits of a status quo are turned into dust, leaving a tabula rasa on which to write a new history tired of hegemonic ideologies.

The project that bears the exhibition's title, ***La puesta en marcha de un sistema (2015)***, consists of a series of compositions which assemble documents, photographs and gelatine silver prints belonging to the artist's personal archive.

Propaganda images from different periods and countries are interwoven with pages from photography books, political slogans, portraits and geometric shapes, creating a three-dimensional assembly and generating new associations and layers of reading the very history that they contain.

Thus, as also happens in the illuminated panels which connect the exhibition space, the project imposes a return to the idea of deconstructing in order to rebuild; of questioning History, undoing it and rewriting it; of paying attention to certain information and its nuances; of looking through new filters and meanings and of working with different forms and techniques. Ultimately, these are projects with feedback loops that create a network where symbols, images and information display multiple readings.



*La puesta en marcha de un sistema (2015). Courtesy of the artist*



Iván Argote's actions escape their everyday stage to contaminate other spheres. This happens in **Reddish Blue (2015)**, a project inspired by an old, damaged photograph from the 1970s which shows Argote's father teaching children how to become good activists. This project reveals a historical anecdote with a rich ideological background: Iván Argote finds out that in the late 1960s the Eastman Kodak company realized that color photographs turned reddish as they aged and, in the context of Cold War, the company feared that the archives of the United States would end up over time completely red, the emblematic color of the Soviet bloc. For this reason, the company decided to change the Kodak chrome method and created a new developing system, Ektachrome, in which pictures tend to turn blue as they age. This story is narrated through a text projected from slides, in a space painted violet, a mix of blue and red.



*Reddish Blue, (2015). Courtesy of the artist*

The same photograph of the father in the 1970s is also the starting point of the **Activissime – Thessaloniki (2015)** project, which Argote has developed at different times and in different places, based on workshops with primary-school children where the artist encourages them to create their own protest slogans, emulating the activity of his father three decades earlier. Argote held the first workshop in 2011, commissioned by the MAC/VAL Museum in France; the second in 2014 in Sala Muncunill – Espai Dos in Terrassa; and the third in 2015 in Greece, within the context of the Thessaloniki Biennial. The resulting video of the workshop in Greece closes the exhibition at ADN Gallery.



*Activissime – Thessaloniki (2015)*

The exhibition space is conceived as a narrative system in which objects, collages, films and archive materials are reactivated and provide us with new stories. The scenography presented by Ivan Argote blends visual and historical filters and displays images that reflect on the relationship of human beings with art, philosophy and politics. Following Jacques Rancière in *Le Destin des Images*, "Art is alive whenever it is outside itself, forming 'scenes of distortion.'"

## IVÁN ARGOTE\_ Biography

Iván Argote is a Colombian artist who lives and works in Paris, France.

Iván Argote deals with the way that man relates with the myriad changes that take place daily in the historical, economic, political and moral realms. His aim is to question the role of subjectivity in the revision of these concepts. Argote involves the body, and emotions in the construction of his thinking, and develops methods to generate reflexion about the way we construct certainty in relation with politics and history. By creating interventions and performances for the public space, which are sometimes further developed in the format of videos and photos, the artist explores the city as a space of transformation.

### Solo shows (selection)

#### **2015**

La puesta en marcha de un sistema, ADN Galeria. Barcelona, Spain

Cómo lavar la loza coherentemente, comisariada por Santiago Rueda, NC-Arte, Bogotá, Colombia.

#### **2014**

Reddish Blue, D+T Project, Brussels, Belgium

Let's Write a History of Hopes, Galeria Varmelho, Sao Paulo, Brasil

Activissime!, Espai 2 - Sala Muncunil, Barcelona, Spain

Strengthlessness, Galerie Perrotin, Paris, France

#### **2013**

Un millón de amigos, Galería ADN, Barcelona, Spain

Munich Time Capsule 2013-2113, A Space Calle Public, curated by Elmgreen & Dragset, Munich, Germany

AB Studios", with Pauline Bastard, 18th Street Arts Center, Los Angeles, USA

#### **2012**

La Estrategia, curat per Akiko Miki, Modules Prix Sam Projects, Palais de Tokyo, París, France

Close to Me, D+T Project Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

Sin Heroísmos, por favor, curada per Tania Pardo, CA2M, Madrid, Spain

Rising action, (duo amb Pauline Bastard), Nettie Horn Gallery, Londres, England

Art Brussels, Emmanuel Perrotin booth, Brussels, Belgium

#### **2011**

We are, Nurture Art, Brooklyn, NewYork, USA

Venganza, La Mals, Socheaux, France

Caliente, Galerie Perrotin, Paris, France

## 2010

Nouvelles Peintures, OLM space, Neuchâtel, Switzerland  
Rising action, with Pauline Bastard vernon Projekt, Vernon Gallery, Prague  
Lots of Love, with Pauline Bastard, Störk Gallery, Rouen, France

## 2009

Disguised Retrospective, Museum - National University of Colombia, Bogota, Colombia  
A brake to dance, Valenzuela & Klenner Gallery, Bogota (August), Colombia  
The Here, Paris Fine Arts School, Diploma exhibition, Paris, France  
Valeur Ajoutée, with Pauline Batsrad, Hamish Morrison Gallery, Berlin, Germany

## 2008

Valor Agregado, with Pauline Batsrad, Valenzuela & Klenner Gallery, Bogota, Colombia  
Explosion, Paris Fine Arts School, Left gallery, Paris, France

## 2007

From 12 to 2, with Pauline Bastard, ENSBA, Guillaume Paris' studio, Paris, France  
When Attitudes Become Piss, Paris Fine Arts School ENSBA, Paris, France

## Group shows (selection)

## 2015

Intersections (after Lautréamont), CIFO Foundation, Miami, U.S.  
Between the Pessimism of the Intellect and the Optimism of the Will, 5th Thessaloniki Biennale, Greece  
Every inclusion is an exclusion of other possibilities, Salt Beyoglu, Istanbul, Turkey  
Historiology / Archaeography, DT Project, Brussels, Belgium  
Paris holiday, Galerie Perrotin, New York, U.S.  
L'éloge de l'heure, MUDAC, Lausanne, Switzerland  
Il frutto maturo e la terra indifferente, Museo Nivola, Orani, Italy  
Moving not moving, Galerie Laurence Bernard, Geneva, Switzerland  
Screening, Les Abattoirs, Toulouse, France  
ARCO, ADN Galeria. Madrid, Spain

## 2014

Nuit Blanche, Pavillon Vendome (outside sculpture), Paris, France  
Corpus Delicti, Ex Terrasa, Mexico D.F., Mexico  
Buildering: Misbehaving the City, Blaffer Art Museum, Houston, USA  
Colonia Apocryfa, Musac - Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León, León, Spain  
El Futuro No espera, La Capella, Barcelona, Spain  
... Do Delay, Pick Nick, Cyprus  
Verbo - Performance Festival, Galeria Vermelho, Sao Paulo, Brasil  
The part In The Story Where..., Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam, Holland  
Honoré, Galerie rue Visconti, Paris, France  
Inédits 2014-Be virus, my friend, Casa Encendida, Madrid, Spain  
Addenda, Notre Dame à la Rose Museum with B.P.S.22, Belgium  
Buildering: Misbehaving the City, CAC Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, USA  
Utopian Days - Freedom, Total Museum, Seoul, South Korea  
All about these... Ladies and Gentleman, National Gallery of Arts, Tirana, Albania

Inéditos 2014-Be virus, my friend, Casa Encendida, Madrid, Spain  
Quieren dinero, Barranquilla Fine Arts, Barranquilla, Colombia  
Festival Hors Piste, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

## 2013

Ciudad-de-mente, Galeria Concreta, Santiago de Chile, Chile  
XVII Biennale d' Arte Citta di Penne, Penne, Italy  
Ivan Argote - Adrian Melis - Ahmet Ogut, DT Projects, Brussels, Belgium  
Happy Birthday Galerie Perrotin, Lille 3000, Lille, France  
De leur temps iv, ADIAF, Le Hangar à Bananes, Nantes, France  
FOutre, düo, Paris, France  
YIA Artfair - Solo with DT Project Gallery, Paris, France  
Jubiläums Festival 2013, Werkleitz, Nuremberg, Germany  
Nuit Blanche Video - London, Victoria Miro Gallery, London, UK  
Augmented Spatiality, Hökarängen, Stockholm, Sweden  
Artesur - Collective Fictions, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France  
La Belle Peinture II / Palais Pisztory / Bratislava, Slovakia  
Festival de Inverno de São João del Rei, São João del Rei, Brasil  
Something Called Public, Public space project, curated by Elmgreen & Dragset, Munich, Germany  
Small gestures, MU, Eindhoven, Holland  
The Democracy of objects, Netti Horn Gallery, London, UK  
La Belle Peinture II, Palais Pisztory, Bratislava, Slovakia  
Monkey Business, Galerie Sophie Schdeicker, Paris, France  
Programme itinerant de la Biennale de Sao Paulo, (Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina)  
Tectonic, The Moving Museum, Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
Traduction-Tradition-Trahison, Cube Independent Art Room, Rabat, Morocco  
Involution, Otras Obras, Tijuana, Mexico  
The Exuberan's Vertigo and Myths, Maison Rouge, Paris, France  
TCOB, Museo La Tertulia, Cali, Colombia

## 2012

Los Irrespetuosos, Museo Carillo Gil, Mexico City  
The Imminence of Poetics, 30th Sao Paulo Biennial, Brasil  
Destination Sud, MuBe, Sao Paulo, Brasil  
There's a hole in the sky, Campbell Town Art Center, Sydney, Australia  
Sao Paulo Biennale, Sao Paulo, Brasil  
Group show at Art Basel, Perrotin booth, Basel, Switzerland  
Políticas de la imagen en Colombia, Artes Guerrero, Bogotá, Colombia  
Performing Politics Symposium, Institut fur Raumexperimente, Berlin, Germany  
Girse, Joan Miró Foundation, Curated by Martina Milla, May, Barcelona, Spain  
Políticas de la imagen: videoarte colombiano, OODAAQ Festival, Rennes, France  
The forfeiture of money, D+T Project, April, Brussels, Belgium  
Sesion 2012, Domaine de Chamarande, curated by: COAL Colletif, Chamarande, France  
The Family, Lust Gallery, Vienna, Austria

## 2011

BLK river festival, Curated by Sidnei Ogidan, Vienna, Austria  
Tiere in der kunst, Galerie im Traklhaus, Curated by Dietgard Grimmer, Salzburg, Austria  
Vista, Socrates Sculpture Park, New York, USA

Prix Science Po pour l'art contemporain, Ecole de Sciences Politiques, Paris, France  
Les armes silencieuses, CAB Grenoble, Switzerland  
Qui Admirez Vous?, Curators: Isabelle Le Normand & Florence Ostende, La Box, Bourges, France

## 2010

Something, Curated by Marco Antonini, Pratt Manhattan auditorium, New York, USA  
Catalogue Artist' Film Screening, Curated by Isabelle Le Normand et Florence Ostende, South London Gallery, London, UK  
Action Planning #3-Iterludes, Nuit Blanche, Curator: Julia Garbuzova,-Marlène Perronet- Diane Pigeau- Glassbox, Mairie du 11ème, Paris, France  
Nouvelles Peintures, OLM space, curated by Renaud Loda, Neuchâtel, Switzerland  
Hyperactivité, CAN& Marks Blond Project. Curators: Daniel Suter, Arthur de Pury, CAN Neuchâtel  
Danse élargie (project / event), Théâtre de la ville de Paris, Paris, June 26 and 27  
Biennale de Mulhouse 010, Mulhouse, France  
Safari sur l'île des impressionnistes, Curated by Madeleine Mathé, Cneai, Chatou, France  
Schools of art , Hochschule für Bildende Künste Dresden, curated by Katharina Schlieben, Germany  
Hors Pistes, selection of videos by Xavier Veihlan showed in the presentation of his film Furtivo, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France  
Biennale Madrid Abierto, Art biennale, Audiovisual selection, Madrid, Spain  
Swing 2, IvanArgote, PaulineBastard, GéraldynePy et RobertoVerde, Mains d'Oeuvres, Saint-Ouen, France

## 2009

Swing, La Friche La Belle de Mai, Marseille, France  
Vidéo Ping-Pong #5, vas voir dehors si j'y suis, Conservatoire of Music and Dance, Pau, France  
BIG UP3, Contemporary Art Festival, Pau, France  
D-rrrr, Störk Gallery, Rouen, France  
BIG UP3, Contemporary Art Festival, Anglet, France  
XI International Call for Young Artist, Luis Adelantado Gallery, Valencia, Spain  
The conservation and restoration of contemporary artworks, Talk by Carole Husson SFIIIC, Paris, France  
Date limite de Conservation, Talk, MAC/VAL Museum of contemporary art of Val-de-Marne, Vitry-sur-Seine, France  
Zapping Unit, MAC/VAL Museum of contemporary art of Val-de-Marne, Vitry-sur-Seine, France  
54th Salon of Contemporary Art of Montrouge, Montrouge , France  
Traverse Vidéo, Video Festival, Toulouse, France  
Collaboration transmission, curated by Peter Lewis, ENSBA, Paris, France  
Madrid Abierto 2009-2010, Audiovisual selection, Madrid, Spain

## 2008

Architectures of survivals, Outpost for Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, USA  
Youtube battle 2, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France  
TV JAM 2008, Montehermoso Cultural Center, Vitoria Gasteiz, Spain  
A winter story in a wild jungle, Shunt, London, UK  
Vidéo sur l'île, Curated by Marcel Dinahet and Célia Cretien, Ouessant, France  
Collider, La générale, Paris, France  
Tina B, Contemporary Art Festival, Prague, Czech Republic  
Intervenciones TV, Montehermoso Cultural Center, Vitoria Gasteiz, Spain  
The Here, Conference, Master in Fine Arts, National University, Bogotá, Colombia  
Una, Balelatina, Basel, Switzerland  
La masse avait envahit la grille, Paris National Superior Architecture School, France  
Eurofoot, la maison des métaux, Paris, France

Web flash festival, centre Pompidou, Paris, France  
Architectures of survivals, Sparwasser, Berlin, Germany  
Travers video Festival, Toulouse, France

## **2007**

Supra Real, Conference, Master in Fine Arts, National University, Bogotá, Colombia  
Offering, Taipei Artist Village, Taipei city, Taiwan  
Paris Taipei, Fine Arts School of Taipei, Taipei city, Taiwan

## **2006**

National Salon of Young Art, Library El Tintal, Bogotá, Colombia  
National Salon of Young Art, Art Museum of the Antioquia's University, Medellin, Colombia  
National Salon of Young Art, Comfandi Cultural Center, Cali, Colombia  
National Salon of Young Art, Gilberto Alzate Avendaño Foundation, Bogota, Colombia  
Pirate video Festival, Colombia's National University, Bogotá, Colombia

## **2005**

Photographic 217, Colombia's National University of Colombia, Bogotá, October, Colombia  
Thesis, Best final projects from art schools, Contemporary Art Museum, Bogotá, Colombia  
Art and Document, Cali's Cultural Center, curated by Elías Heim. Cali, Colombia  
Pirate video Festival, Colombia's National University, Bogotá, Colombia