

## Iván Argote *A million friends*

From **March 22nd** to **May 31st**, 2013

**Opening:** Friday 22nd of March, 2013 from 7.30 pm.

In his first exhibition in Barcelona, Iván Argote presents at ADN Galeria *A million friends*: an approach which focuses on the experience of encountering the other and the joy of sharing. Curated by Albertine de Galbert the solo show evolves around the "fair distance" portrayed in his works. Thus, the artist becomes an activist of contact and relationship.

Taking the city as a stage for his interventions, the Colombian artist searches voids in the daily routine to stimulate encounters, suggesting how we relate to each other. Furthermore, he cracks the suspicion that underlies our ambiguous relationship with the Other, the stranger, proposing to shorten this distance through fictive and fleeting textures activated by his performances. Using humour as a vehicle rather than as an objective, Iván Argote tackles with simplicity and efficiency themes of important issues while drawing new interpretations and dynamics in the spaces he transforms.

The exhibition is conceived as a space to penetrate: starting with the superficial layer, its materiality, to deepen into more profound concepts such as the way we relate to the city, our place in history through the personal, the collective and the familiar.

From the outside of the gallery we can observe the piece *Extracts* (2013), which reproduces a street wall section. The urban space sheltered by the gallery becomes a container of individual voices gathered by the artist and transcribed into a sentence we can read on the wall. Next to it, we encounter *Dándole peso a los besos* (2012), in which the graphic intervention appears in the public space aiming to be fossilised. The artist impregnates with kisses a rock located next to the Supatá River in Colombia; the intention is to perpetuate a presence in a specific time and space and give weight to an otherwise fleeting moment. Locating again the action in the public realm, the video *Caricia*, filmed in 2012, shows a loving couple in the Parc des Tuileries of Paris. In their bodies, we can observe the shadow of a hand stroking their figures. The intruder and tender contact does not happen in actuality, but it is present and participates of the couple's intimacy.

Indeed Ivan Argote's actions escape their common staging to contaminate other spheres. It is the case of *Un día al año* which recuperates 35 Polaroids of birthday's celebrations (an archive of a project realised in the Centro de Arte Dos de mayo -CA2M in 2012.) The images assemble an action, which consisted in celebrating every day a birthday of a different person every day until the end of the show. The result is a compendious of scattered individual stories, photographs of diverse people who commemorate their birthdays with friends and family: a million of anonymous friends frozen in these images and paralysed in time and space. The artist transforms an intimate ritual into the real protagonist of the artwork offering it to the public gaze.

Another ironical and irreverent project is *Make me happy, make me sad* (2013): a note of 5.000 Spanish pesetas depicting the face of King Juan Carlos I positioned on top of a pedestal. Depending on the angle from which the figure is seen, the King has a smiley or a sad face. *Turistas: Isabel handing in a contract and Cristóbal pointing the South* (2012) relates to two photographs of the sculptures of Queen Isabel and Christopher Columbus presiding over the square "Monument for the Catholic Kings" in Bogotá. In the images we can observe that the two figures wear "ruanas": ponchos from the Andes; an action that the artist undertook with the same group of people with whom he organised an ephemeral community in the context of the project *La Estrategia* (detailed below).

The urban space becomes again a battlefield where any corner can be container for statements.

The video titled *Geometría* (2012) shows two girls in the jungle, both holding a revolver that is activated every time one ask to the other where does she come from?, where was she born? or any other question related to their place of origin. The answers are always: "over there" or ""over here" while shooting to the direction they are pointing at. The artist wants to play with their unclear answers and reflects on the connotation that hangs from these questions, as they have a direct impact on the current socio-political system.

The participation of others in Argote's artworks, either in a passive or direct form, is a leitmotiv that travels along almost all his creative projects. It is maybe in *Activisim!* (2011-2013) where it is more literally materialised. The project groups, through multiple slides, a workshop with kids aged 5 to 7 that Argote did in the Museum MAC-VAL, where he provided the children with tools for demonstrating. The images are accompanied by a transcription of the phone conversation in which he explains the project to his mother. Moreover, the piece settles a bond with the artist autobiographical past since his father, a Colombian syndicalist and schoolteacher, usually taught his scholars to demonstrate. The singular canvas that can be seen in ADN Gallery: *Huelga estudiantil*, is a site specific installation of one of the "protest classes" that his father did in the 70s.

The exhibition also includes *History of the Humanity* (2011) where the artist and his family reconstructed "great moments" of the history of humanity shoot on a park.

The last work presented in *A million friends* is the medium length film *La Estrategia* recently exhibited in the Palais de Tokyo in Paris and which compiles few pieces already described. It reveals a dive into the past. The artist collected an enormous number of anecdotes from some militants of the 70s in Bogotá. They used to live in clandestine communities and Iván Argote formed a group of people to whom he passed on all these stories and together built a community, where they lived during two weeks under this "system of truth" so proclaimed by the militants of the past. Through this reconstruction and with a critical lecture, they constructed new anecdotes trying to re-enact in their own flesh a part of the history, with the aim of transporting the past to the here and now. The dynamic of the group was expanded to the relation with the city, the monuments, the nature and the landscape.

Iván Argote raises questions addressed to the spectator under a tender curtain while looking forward for an eventual outcome. Art becomes here a research's mechanism: a constant inquiry willing to modify the present in a movement from the very private to the very collective. In that sense, the artist represents an art which takes place outside the borders of any conventional frame; its mobility and evanescence resist to be controlled.

Information

## **IVÁN ARGOTE- *a million friends***

Opening on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, 2013

Exhibition from March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 to May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013

Opening hours to the public :

Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m to 2 p.m and from 4 to 8 p.m.

Saturday from 11 a.m to 2 p.m and from 5 p.m to 8.30 p.m.

Press contact :

[info@adngaleria.com](mailto:info@adngaleria.com)

t. +34 93 451 0064



**Dándole peso a los besos**  
Photograph, 160 x 160 cm  
2012



## Caricia

Film Super 8mm transferred to video HD

3 min 32 sec

2012



**Un año al día (archival material of the project realized in CA2M, Madrid)**

35 polaroids in 3 frames of 107,6 x 71 cm

2012



**Turistas (Isabel handing in a contract and Christopher pointing the South)**

2 photographs of 110 x 110 cm

2012





## **History of the Humanity**

Film super 8 mm

7 min 5 sec

2011





**Activism! (archival material of the project realised at the Museum MAC-VAL, Paris)**

80 slides

2011-2013



## Huelga estudiantil

Photograph of the artists' familiar archive

300 x 198 cm

2013



## La Estrategia

Video 33 min 33 sec

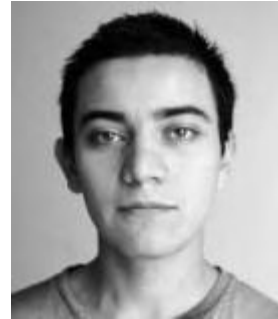
2012

Projection

## Curriculum

IVAN ARGOTE

1983, Bogotá (Colombia)



### Education

- 2008 / MFA, École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris - ENSBA, Paris
- 2005 / Specialization in new medias, Cinema and TV School, National University, Bogota
- 2005 / Specialization in photography, Graphic Design School, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogota
- 2004 / Graphic design, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá

### Solo shows

- 2013 / AB Studios, with Pauline Bastard, 18th Street Arts Center, Los Angeles  
*Un millón de amigos*, Galería ADN, Barcelona, Spain  
*Munich Time Capsule 2013-2113*, with Pauline Bastard, A Space Calle Public, curated by Elmgreen & Dragset
- 2012 / *La Estrategia*, Palais de Tokyo (Modules), lié au Prix SAM (déc. 2012)  
*Close to me*, D+T Project, Brussels (sept. 2012)  
*Art Brussels - Emmanuel Perrotin Booth*, Brussels  
*Sin heroísmos, por favor* (with Sara Ramos y Teresa Solar), CA2M, Madrid  
*Rising action* (duo with PaulineBastard), Nettie Horn Gallery, Londres
- 2011 / *We are*, Nurture Art, Brooklyn, NY  
*Venganza*, La Mals, Socheaux, France  
*Caliente*, Emmanuel Perrotin Gallery, Paris
- 2010 / *Rising action*, with Pauline Bastard Vernon Projekt, Vernon Gallery, Prague  
*Lots of love*, with Pauline Bastard, Störk Gallery, Rouen - France
- 2009 / *A break to dance*, Valenzuela & Klenner Gallery, Bogota  
*Valeur Ajoutée*, Hamish Morrison Gallery, Berlin
- 2008 / *Valor Agregado*, Valenzuela & Klenner Gallery, Bogota

### Group exhibitions (selection)

- 2013/ *Something Called Public*, Public space project, curated by Elmgreen & Dragset, Munich (june)  
*Traduction-Tradition-Trahison*, Cube Independent Art Room, Curated by Anna Raimondo, Rabat  
*Involution*, Otras Obras, Tijuana, Mexico  
*The Exuberant's Vertigo and Myths*, Maison Rouge, Paris, France. curated by Irene Artistizabal  
*TCOB*, Museo La Tertulia, Cali, curated by MIAMI  
*Tectonic*, The Moving Museum, Dubai, Arab Emirates  
*Small gestures*, MU, Eindhoven, Germany  
*Festival de Inverno de São João del Rei*, São João del Rei, Brazil
- 2012 / *Los irrespetuosos*, Museo Carillo & Gil, Mexico DF  
*Sao Paulo Biennale*, Sao Paulo, (Sep. 2012)  
*Winners of SAM Prize*, MUBE (Sept 2012)  
*There's a hole in the sky*, Campbelltown Arts Centre, August, Sydney  
*Group show at Art Basel, Perrotin booth*, Basel  
*Políticas de la imagen en Colombia*, Artes Guerrero, Bogotá  
*Performing Politics Symposium*, Institut fur Raumexperimente, Berlin  
*Girarse*, Joan Miró Foundation, Curated by Martina Milla, May, Barcelona  
*Políticas de la imagen: videoarte colombiano*, OODAAQ Festival, Rennes (France)  
*The forfeiture of money*, D+T Project, April, Brussels  
*Sesion 2012*, Domaine de Chamarande, curated by: COAL Colletif, Chamarande – France  
*The Family*, Lust Gallery, Vienna

*DigitalAct*, Digital Arts Festival, Sept 23, 24 & 25, Moscou

*Ambiente Familiar*, M.I.A.M.I. Gallery, curated by William Contreras, Bogotá

*La Minoterie*, curated by Marion Tampon-Lajarriette, Geneva

*Activissime*, workshop with children, MAC VAL Museum, Paris

*Polis*, Art blog art blog, curated by Markus Winter, New York

*Vista*, Socrates Sculpture Park, New York

*Tiere in der kunst*, Galerie im Traklhaus, curated by Dietgard Grimmer, Salzburg, Germany

*Prix Sciences Po pour l'art contemporain*, École de Sciences Politiques, Paris

*Manipulatie, Paraplufabriek*, curated by Perre van den Brink, Nijmegen / Holland

*Les armes silencieuses*, CAB Grenoble, Commissaire: Vincent Verlé, Grenoble, France

*Qui Admirez Vous?*, Curators: Isabelle Le Normand & Florence Ostende, La Box, Bourges – France

*Something*, Curated by Marco Antonini, Pratt Manhattan auditorium, New York, October 9

*Catalogue Artist' Film Screening*, curated by Isabelle Le Normand et Florence Ostende, South London Gallery, London s

*Action Planning #3-Iterludes*, Nuit Blanche, Curator: JuliaGarbuzova,-MarlènePerronet-DianePigeau-Glassbox, Mairie du 11ème, Paris

*Action Planning-Self #1*, Angle Art Contemporain, Saint-Paul-Trois-Chateaux, France

*Hors Pistes*, selection of videos by Xavier Veihlan showed in the presentation of his film *Furtivo*, Centre Pompidou, Paris s

*Nouvelles Peintures OLM space*, curated by Renaud Loda, Neuchâtel, Switzerland

*Hyperactivité*, CAN& Marks Blond Project. curated by Daniel Suter, Arthur de Pury, CAN Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Revista *Asterisco* (magazine No. 9) / Rehacer el hecho / Ficciones de archivo / Archivo desclasificado, Bogota

*Danse élargie* (project / event) Théâtre de la ville de Paris, Paris, June 26 and 27

*Biennale de Mulhouse 010*, Mulhouse, France

*You me here now*, Galerie IMMIX, Paris

*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

*Something, nothing and anything*, curated by Kusuk Yun, La troisième porte bleu, Paris

*1 million of friends*, Sunday's screenings, Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, Paris

*Biennale Madrid Abierto*, Art biennale, Audiovisual selection, Madrid, Spain

*Swing 2*, IvanArgote, PaulineBastard, GéraldynePy et RobertoVerde, Mains d'Oeuvres, Saint-Ouen, France

*Prelude*, Chez Edgard, curated by Madelaine Mathé, Paris

*Lionel Esteve, Kolkoz, Xavier Veilhan, Daniel Firman, Mathieu Mercier, Ivan Argote*, Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, Miami

*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

*Drrrr*, Störk Gallery, Rouen, France

*BIG UP3*, Contemporary Art Festival, Anglet, France

*Disguised Retrospective*, Museum - National University of Colombia, Bogota

*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

*Light by UNA*, Balelatina, Basel

*Intervenciones TV, Montehermoso Cultural Center, Vitoria Gasteiz, Spain s*

*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

*54th Salon of Contemporary Art of Montrouge*, Montrouge, France, April

*Architectures of survivals*, Outpost for Contemporary Art, Los Angeles

*TV JAM 2008*, Montehermoso Cultural Center, Vitoria Gasteiz, Spain

*A winter story in a wild jungle*, Shunt, London

*Youtube battle 2*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris

2010 /

2009 /

2008 /

*Vidéo sur l'île*, Curated by Marcel Dinahet and Célia Cretien, Ouessant, France

*Collider*, La Générale, Paris

*Tina B*, Contemporary Art Festival, Prague, Czech Republic

*Una*, Balelatina, Basel

*La masse enavahit la grille*, Paris National Superior Architecture School

*Eurofoot*, La Maison des Métallos, Paris

*Architectures of survivals*, Sparwasser, Berlin

*Traverse Vidéo*, Video Festival, Toulouse, France

2007 / *Paris MFA Fine Arts Students*; Taipei Artist Village, Taipei, Taiwan

*Paris Taipei*, Fine Arts School of Taipei, Taipei, Taiwan

2006 / *National Salon of Young Art*, Library El Tintal, Bogotá

*National Salon of Young Art*, Art Museum of the Antioquia's University, Medellín

*National Salon of Young Art*, Comfandi Cultural Center, Cali

*National Salon of Young Art*, Gilberto Alzate Avendaño Foundation, Bogotá

*Pirate video Festival*, Colombia's National University, Bogotá – Colombia s

2005 / *Fotográfica 217*, National University of Colombia, Bogotá

*Thesis, Best final projects from art schools*, Contemporary Art Museum, Bogotá

*Art and Document*; Cali's Cultural Center, curated by Elías Heim, Cali

## **Residencies & Awards**

2012 / *Residency at 18 Street Arts Center*, L.A.

2011 / *Prize Sam Art Projects 2011* / Paris

*Residency* / Flux Factory, Long Island City, Queens

2010 / *Residency* / Mains d'Oeuvres, Paris

*Prize* / Prix "Mals", Biennale de Mulhouse, Mulhouse, France

*Feldstärke International*, Le 104 exchange program, Essen - Paris - Istanbul

2009 / *Residence* - Astérides, Marseille, France

*Residence* - National University - Visual Arts department, Bogotá, Colombia

2008 / *First Prize* - *Intervenciones TV 2008*, Fundación Rodríguez, Vitoria Gateiz, Spain

2007 / *Residence* - Paris-Taiwan - Taiwan Fine Arts School, Taipei, Taiwan, July

2005 / *First Prix* - *National Salon of Young Art*, Fundación Gilberto Alzate Avendaño, Bogotá

## **Curating projects, performances and other events**

2013 / *Born to Curate* (Los Angeles), Highways Theater, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, Produced by 18<sup>th</sup> Street Arts Center & Institut Français

2012 / *Born to curate (London)*, in collaboration with Pauline Bastard, Produced by Nettie Horn Gallery

2011 / *Activissime*, Activism and protest workshop with children, MAC VAL Museum, Paris

*Pauline Bastard & Ivan Argote*, Conference, Rouen Fine Arts Museum, Rouen - France

*Flux thursdays*, Conference, Flux Factory, Long Island City, Queens

*Ivan Argote Prize*, Price for a student in the Bourges' Fine Arts School, Philantropy action, Bourges - France

2010 / *Dance or die!*, Dance élargie, with Jair Bareli and Pauline Bastard, Théâtre de la Ville de Paris, Paris

*Born to curate*, curating contest organized in collaboration with Pauline Bastard, Ars longa, Paris

*Collection Permanente*, curated by Ivan Argote, Pauline Bastard & Isabelle Le Normand, Mains d'Oeuvres, Saint-Ouen \*

*100% directe*, Performance in collaboration with Pauline Bastard, Mains d'Oeuvres, Saint-Ouen, France

2008 / *The Here*, Conference-performance, Master in Fine Arts, National University, Bogotá

*Web flash festival*, centre Pompidou, Paris

2007 / *Supra Real*, Conference-performance, Master in Fine Arts, National University, Bogotá

## **Represented by**

Emmanuel Perrotin Gallery, Paris

D+T Project, Brussels