

News Release from Milton Keynes Gallery

30 Sept - 19 Nov 2006

Carlos Amorales

Exhibition supported by La Colección Jumex

Preview supported by Corona Extra

Preview | Fri 29 Sept | 17.30–20.00 | All press & media welcome



Carlos Amorales
Film Still from 'Useless Wonder'. 2006.
Courtesy the artist

This autumn Milton Keynes Gallery presents a new exhibition by the Mexican artist Carlos Amorales. Amorales makes work in a variety of media, including animation, sculpture, installation and performance, drawing on the rich visual imagery and popular cultural history of his native Mexico to create environments and situations that call upon the audience to participate: physically, mentally, or otherwise.

Amorales' 'Liquid Archive' will be central to the exhibition at Milton Keynes Gallery. The archive is an evolving, personal collection of over 400 digital 'drawings' of appropriated images and intimate memories, a series of which will be on display in the form of wall-based drawings. The ambiguous images range from the personal to the political, including a favourite childhood toy to a crumpled poster of Osama bin Laden and have informed much of Amorales' oeuvre, where ravens, skulls, shattered glass and dark silhouetted figures morph into infinite configurations.

The archive has been transformed numerous times and remains in a constant state of flux, questioning the notion of originality. Amorales has worked with various practitioners to create new structures for the work, including a tarot reader,

musicians, and animators, thus reinventing the form that his exhibits take. For MK G, the audience will be invited to physically engage with the archive, in its manifestation as a specially devised environment. Taking the spider web, one of the most prominent motifs from the archive, Amorales will create an installation of assorted shapes to reference the negative spaces of the web structure – it is both an abstract sculpture and a ‘stage’ awaiting performance. In this respect *Spider Web Negative Stage* (2006) brings full circle Amorales’ interest in performance and its relationship to the graphic work he has undertaken over the last few years. The installation will be complemented by a new, previously unseen animation.

As part of MK G’s Sunday Film Screening, Amorales will show *Manimal*, 2005, a film replete in gothic overtones. It shows a sinister pack of wolves that take over a city’s streets and human population, accompanied by a slow, heavy orchestral score that adds to the imagery’s tension. *Manimal* traces a thematic line evident in much of Amorales’ recent work that investigates fantasy and horror in the contemporary world through the use of drawing, graphics and animation.

A number of public related events will accompany the exhibition, including a Mexican night to celebrate the Mexican Day of the Dead (which coincides with Halloween), with traditional music, dancing and story telling.

Related Events

In Conversation Thur 9 Nov | 19.00-20.00 | Free

Tate Curator Catherine Wood discusses Carlos Amorales’ performance work with MK G Director Michael Stanley

Mexican Night Fri 3 Nov | 19.00-23.00 | £5 (£3 concs)

Enjoy a lively and colourful evening of live Mexican music, dancing and Mexican story telling, all inspired by the traditional ‘Day of the Dead’ festival. Visit mk-g.org for updates.

Note for Editors

Carlos Amorales (b. Mexico, 1970) currently lives and works in Mexico City. He has exhibited extensively in Europe and beyond, including exhibitions and performances at De Appel, Amsterdam, Museum Boijmans van Beunigen, Rotterdam, Tate Modern, London, SF MOMA, San Francisco, 2nd Berlin Biennial, 2001, and the Walker Art Centre, Minneapolis. He represented the Netherlands at the 2003 Venice Biennale. La Colección Jumex is a private contemporary art collection in Mexico City.

Press Information & Images

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