

HOT CAPSULES FROM THE COLD WAR

SIMÓN VEGA

SEPTEMBER 8 - OCTOBER 13, 2018

LILIANA BLOCH GALLERY



HOT CAPSULES FROM THE COLD WAR

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

For his first solo exhibition in Dallas, Salvadorean artist Simón Vega will present works from *Tropical Space Proyectos* (2011-ongoing), a series of sculptural objects, installations, photographs and drawings which comment, through an ironic and humorous take on the Space Race, on the effects of the Cold War in Central America. This new series of work also show a growing concern for spaceships and space stations as models for catastrophe escaping vehicles and dystopian architecture.

In *Tropical Space Proyectos*, the highly technological space capsules and rockets are turned into buildings and modular apartments and rendered as models using materials and methods of construction inspired in the informal architecture and street vendor stands found in El Salvador. Dreams of escape through sophisticated technologies and spaceships are harnessed by the extreme poverty and harsh post-colonialism found in Central America, but are, on the other hand, propelled by the resilience, humor and creativity of the local culture.



Installation View



Installation View



Installation View



Installation View



Installation View



Installation View



Installation View



Installation View



Installation View



Appolo Capsule

2017

acrylic marker on mylar
14" h x 11" w

Gold Apolo

2017

acrylic marker on mylar
14" h x 11" w

Apolo Lunar Module

2017

acrylic marker on mylar
14" h x 11" w

Blue Mercury in the Jungle

2014

acrylic marker on tracing paper
25.3" h x 28.5" w



Mosquito Beach Hostal

2015

acrylic on canvas

43.25" h x 43.25" w



Apolo Beach Rover Minutas

2016

acrylic on canvas

43.25" h x 55" w



'Apolo IV' Tropical Camping

2015

acrylic on canvas

35.5" h x 35.5" w

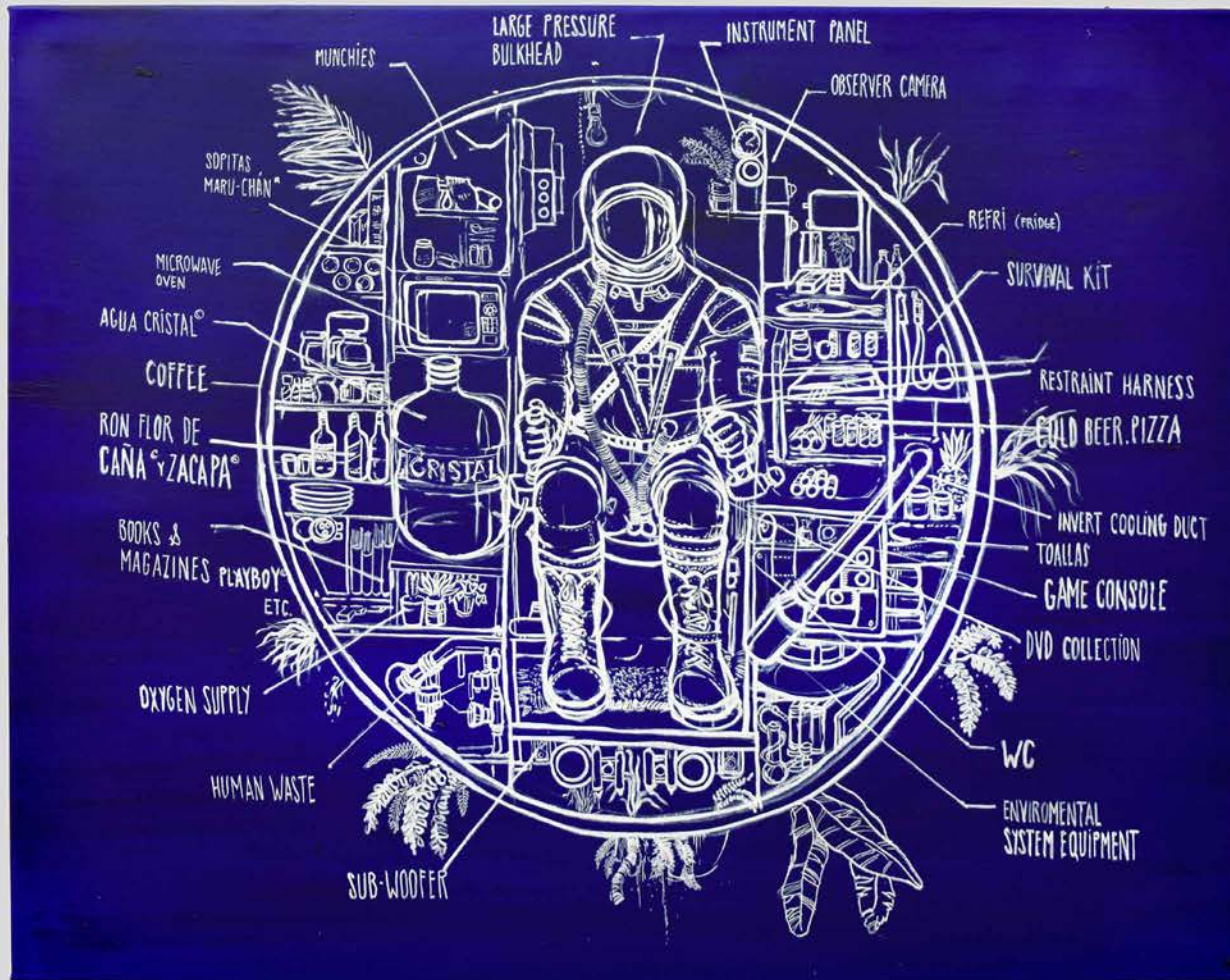


Cosmonaut Blues

2017

acrylic on canvas

43" h x 54.25" w



Space Race DJ
2017
acrylic on canvas
43" h x 54.25" w

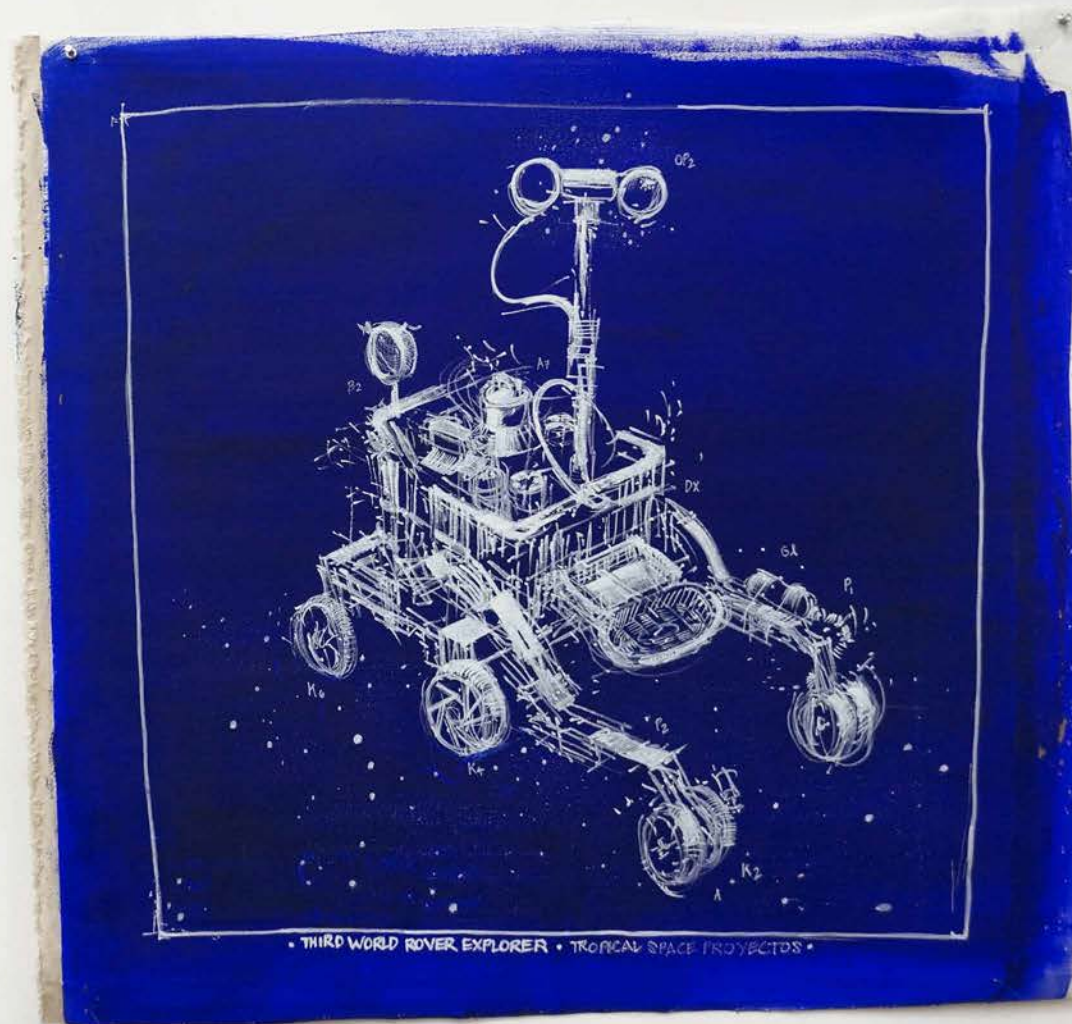


Apolo Burguers & Choris

2016

acrylic on canvas

55" h x 59" w

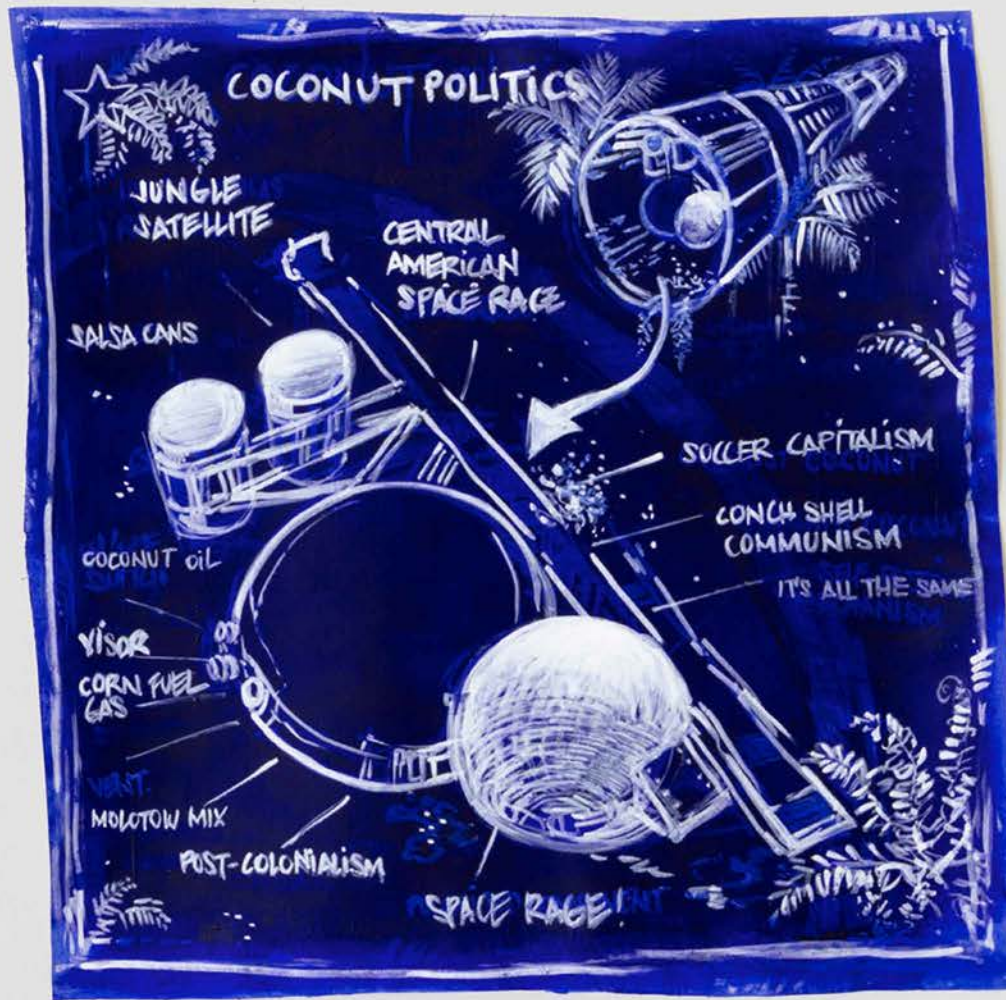


Third World Rover Explorer

2015

acrylic on canvas

34" h x 35" w

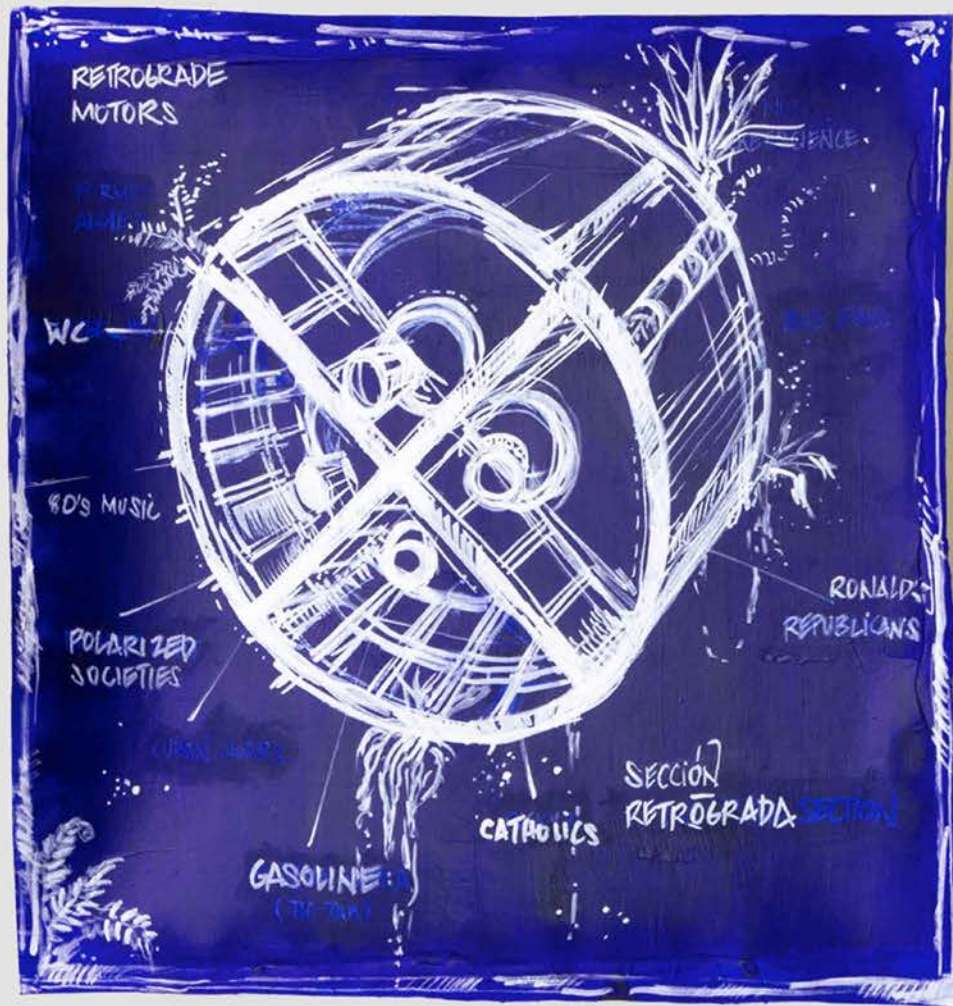


Coconut Politics

2013

acrylic and acrylic marker on canvas

18" h x 18" w



Retrograde Motors

2013

acrylic and acrylic marker on canvas

18" h x 18" w

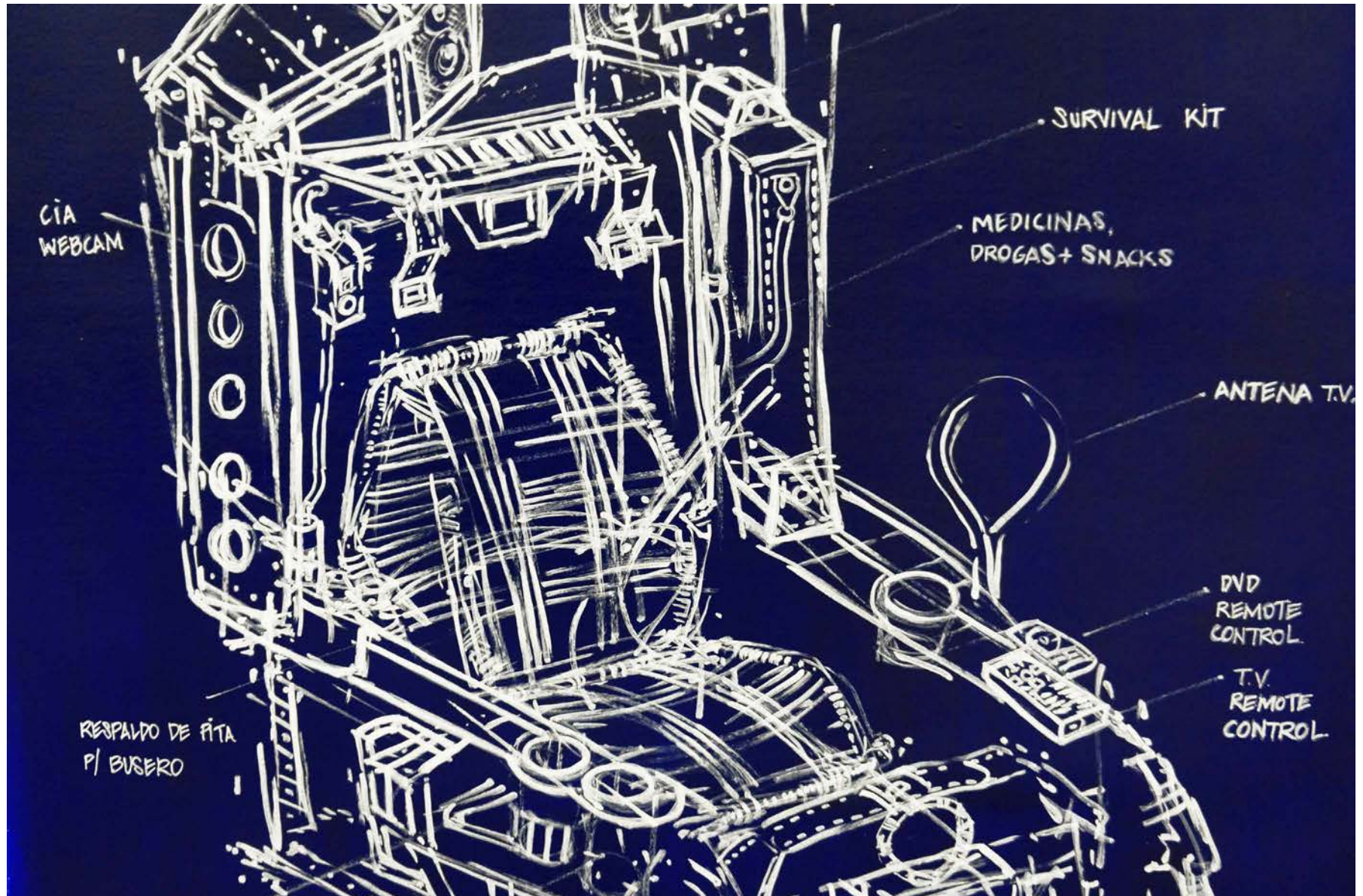


Propulsor

2013

acrylic and acrylic marker on canvas

18" h x 18" w



Gemini Ejection Seat

2015

acrylic on canvas

49.5" h x 30.75" w



Gemini Capsule

2018

mixed media, used objects, plants

34.5" h x 61" w



Gemini Capsule

2018

mixed media, used objects, plants

34.5" h x 61" w

SIMÓN VEGA

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Simón Vega creates drawings, ephemeral sculptures and installations inspired in the informal, self made architecture and vendor carts found in the streets and marginal zones of El Salvador and Central America. These works, assembled with wood, cardboard, plastic and found materials often parody famous Modernist and mythological buildings and cities, surveillance systems as well as high-tech robots and satellites developed by NASA and the Soviet Space Program during the Cold War, creating an ironic and humorous fusion between first and third world, while commenting on the effects of that conflict in today's Central America.

Born in San Salvador, El Salvador in 1972, Simón Vega graduated in Fine Arts at the University of Veracruz in Mexico in 2000 and received a Master's degree in Contemporary Arts from the Complutense University in Madrid in 2006.

He has exhibited his work extensively in Europe, the United States and Latin America, including the 55th Venice Biennial in Italy, the IX Havana Biennial, in Cuba, the Museo del Barrio's "The S-Files" show in New York in 2011 and at the Bronx River Art Center in 2008, both in New York City, as well as at the Hilger BROT Kunsthalle in Vienna, Austria (2010 & 2012). He currently lives in La Libertad, El Salvador.

CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

2006
MADRID, SPAIN

Master in Theory and Practice of Contemporary Arts
Universidad Complutense

2000
XALAPA, MEXICO

Bachelor Fine Arts
Universidad Veracruzana

CURRICULUM VITAE

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2018
DALLAS, TX

Hot Capsules from the Cold War
Liliana Bloch Gallery

2018
SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

Exploradores espaciales del tercer mundo
Museo de Arte y Diseño Contemporáneo

2017
VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Tropical Space Proyectos
Hilger Brot Kunsthalle

2012
VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Panopticans
Hilger Contemporary Gallery

2010
SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

Arquitecturas Híbridas y Construcciones Mentales
DE Gallery

2007
SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

Transurbana. 100% Original
Spanish Cultural Center

2006
MADRID, SPAIN

Vigilantes Invertidos
Espacio F, Mercado Fuencarral

2005
MONTREAL, CANADA

Transurbana, Tu Castigo es Verme
CES

2004
BARCELONA, SPAIN

Faros Babilónicos
Signes Art Gallery

2003
SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

Ciudades Perdidas y Rutas de Escape
Spanish Cultural Center

CURRICULUM VITAE

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2018
GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA

Más allá
21 Bienal de Arte Paiz

2018
INDIO, CA

Palm-3 World Station
Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival

2013
VENICE, ITALY

55th Biennale di Venezia
El Atlas del Imperio
IILA Pavillion
curated by Alfons Hug & Paz Guevara

2013
MEDELLÍN, COLOMBIA

43rd International Artists Salon
Saber Desconocer
Museo de Arte de Medellín (Edificio La Naviera)

2013
VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Greetings from Venice
Hilger Contemporary

2012
VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Sex DUs and Videotapes
BROT Kunsthalle

2012
NEW YORK, NY

Sex DUs and Videotapes
Site 109
curated by Claire Breukel

2011
NEW YORK, NY

The S-Files
El Museo del Barrio + Socrates Sculpture Park
curated by Elvis Fuentes, Rocio Alvarado & Trinidad Fiombella

2011
SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

Coca-Colonized
MARTE Museum
curated by Claire Breukel

2010
VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Coca-Colonized
Brot Kunsthalle
curated by Claire Breukel

CURRICULUM VITAE

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2010
MANAGUA, NICARAGUA

Central American Biennial
VII Bienal de Artes Visuales del Istmo Centroamericano
Teatro Rubén Darío

2010
SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

+/- Esperanza
MADC Museo de Arte y Diseño de Costa Rica
curated by Adán Vallecillos

2010
MANAGUA, NICARAGUA

Hábitat
Spanish Cultural Center & public spaces
curated by Emiliano Valdés

2009
NEW YORK, NY

Bartered States
Bronx River Art Center
curated by José Ruiz

2007
MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

Vigilantes Invertidos
installation/intervention at MACO (Feria México Arte Contemporáneo)

2006
LA HABANA, CUBA

IX Bienal de La Habana

2006
BURGOS, SPAIN

Transpolítica
Espacio Tangente

2006
BALTIMORE, MD

Material Matters
Maryland Art Place

2004
PANAMA CITY, PANAMA

V Central American Biennial
Museo de Arte Moderno

2004
MADRID, SPAIN

Todo Incluido, Imágenes Urbanas Centroamericanas
Centro Cultural Conde Duque
curated by Virginia Perez-Ratton and Santiago de Olmo

CURRICULUM VITAE

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2004
SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

Todo Incluido, Imágenes Urbanas Centroamericanas
Museo Contemporáneo de Arte y Diseño

2004
SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

Habitart
intervenciones

2002
MANAGUA, NICARAGUA

IV Central American Biennial
Palacio Nacional

CURRICULUM VITAE

RESIDENCIES

2014
MIAMI, FL

Fountainhead Residency

2013
VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Brot Kunsthalle

2012
MIAMI, FL

Legal Art

2011
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

Arlington Arts Center

2011
QUEENS, NY

Socrates Sculpture Park

2011
EL ZONTE, EL SALVADOR

Hybrid Art

2010
ANTIGUA GUATEMALA, GUATEMALA

One week with Luis Camnitzer
Centro de Formación Integral

2010
MANAGUA, NICARAGUA

Habitat Managua
Centro Cultural de España

CURRICULUM VITAE

AWARDS

2010
EL SALVADOR

Artist of the Year
ADAPES (Association of Art Professionals El Salvador)

2009
SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

1st Place "Arte Joven" Young Artist Prize
Centro Cultural de España

2005
SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

2nd Place Paíz Biennial

2004
SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

3rd Place "Arte Joven" Young Artist Prize
Centro Cultural de España

CURRICULUM VITAE

PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS

- 2013** Simón Vega Tropical Departures
book
printed in Vienna, Austria
- 2013** "Simon Vega, When Worlds Meet"
Arte al Día Internacional, Vol. 143
p. 40-47
Claire Breukel
- 2013** "Simón Vega, Ciudades Perdidas"
Lenguajes Contemporáneos desde Centro América
Luisa Fuentes Gaza
Turner
- 2013** "The Biennialization Biennial"
Art Nexus, No 90, Volume 12
p. 62
Carlos Jiménez
- 2013** "El Atlas del Imperio"
Venice Biennial IILA Pavillion Catalogue
- 2013** 55th Venice Biennial Catalogue
- 2012** "The S-Files"
Catalogue
El Museo del Barrio

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