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mario garcía torres
the strange things my eyes see

september 17 - october 31, 2015

exhibition opening
september 16, 6-9 pm

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We are pleased to inform you of Mario García Torres' (b. 1975 in Monclova, Mexico) first solo exhibition at the gallery in Berlin. After being initiated in July this year in Santa María Ahuacatlán, Mexico, the presentation of *The Strange Things My Eyes See* will now open at our space in Berlin on September 16 and run until October 31.

The Strange Things My Eyes See is a conceptual framework that García Torres developed for the now abandoned Centro de Meditación in Santa María Ahuacatlán, Mexico, prompting the gallery to open a satellite space there. Upon entering the derelict space, visitors encountered a scene with a number of objects, elements that had originally been part of the building itself, transformed into bronze – among them a wooden beam, onyx slabs, a wooden step, parquet slats and a lamp. A selection of these objects are now on view in Berlin, alongside the canvas impressions of dried corn plants that García Torres discovered in one of the Centro's empty spaces. Using the unique structure as its context, this experiment constituted a subtle intervention that suspended notions of perception and the laws of physics.

Designed and developed by Agustín Hernández (b. 1924) in 1986 as a center for meditation, the utopian building represents a rich interface of pre-Columbian symbology and futuristic elements of the postmodern. Located on a site chosen by the architect for its energetic interaction with key locations in the region such as Tepoztlán, Cholula, and Malinalco, the iconic building's derelict state lends it an anthropological quality, fostering local myths, and allowing surreal and esoteric narratives to emerge.

Created for the exhibition in Berlin, García Torres' new film *Tetela* (2015), shot on location in Santa María Ahuacatlán, tells the story of two boys from the neighborhood who by chance discover the Centro de Meditación's ruins, finding themselves in the slightly unusual situation crafted by García Torres. Throughout the film, the context and the site itself create a space for reflection – a museum of sorts where human gestures and nature's intervention blur their own realities. Thoughts of a failed utopia shape a subtle illusionary fusion of the past and what is still to come.

The work of Mario García Torres has been featured in various international exhibitions in recent years. Among these have been solo shows at the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (2007), Kunsthalle Zürich (2008), Galerie nationale de Jeu de Paume, Paris (2009), Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona (2009), Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid (2010), and Madre - Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Donnaregina, Naples (2013). This past year, the artist has had solo exhibitions at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2014), Pérez Art Museum, Miami (2014), and the Modern Art Museum, Fort Worth (2015). The artist took part in dOCUMENTA(13) (2012) and the biennials of Berlin (2014), Porto Alegre (2013), São Paulo (2010), Taipei (2010), Panama (2008), and Venice (2007).

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