

dr. lakra

jun. 2— aug. 4, 2018

opening
june 2, 12 — 2 pm

press viewing:
thursday, may 31st
11 am

#drlakra

kurimanzutto
gob. rafael rebollar 94
col. san miguel chapultepec
11850 mexico city

tue – thu, 11 am – 6 pm
fri – sat, 11 am – 4 pm

press
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Dr. Lakra (b.1972, Mexico City) has created a personal language, enabling a dialogue between anthropology, popular culture, music and anatomy that reveals his personal interest in taboos, fetishes, myths, and iconography from various cultures.

On this occasion the artist presents his third exhibition at kurimanzutto, this time showing a selection of Indian-ink drawings on paper. These drawings are based on the Chinese tradition of *Sumi-e*, a monochromatic drawing technique that developed in China during the first Century C.E. and was introduced in Japan in the 14th century by Zen Buddhist monks. Dr. Lakra has been experimenting with this technique for the last five years. Over the course of this experimentation he has focused thematically on Japanese iconography, integrating occasional touches of color and his idiosyncratic sense of humor. These drawings contain figures which personify raw aspects of human nature such as violence, mysticism, sex, and survival.

The work in this exhibition portrays the deep fascination Dr. Lakra has for the history of Oriental arts since his visit to Asia in the 1990s. Dr. Lakra also feeds his imagination through the exchange of ideas among his peers including artists, musicians and friends with whom he has collaborated through the years.

In addition to the selection of drawings, the artist exhibits a series of intervened mezcal bottles created in collaboration with artist Abraham Cruzvillegas. This is largely a continuation of the 2005 project *Los Dos Amigos* (MACO, Oaxaca), in which both artists individually discussed and responded to every piece in the exhibition. Some years ago both Dr. Lakra and Cruzvillegas bought several liters of mezcal from Chichicapan, Oaxaca. This liquor was made by Migotas and his family, a well-known musician and distiller with whom Dr. Lakra had worked with on other occasions. The mezcal bottles from this project have been recollected and reused over the course of time, and little by little have formed a collection that establishes a particular and unique dialogue between the artists that created them. Notably, the process of creating these bottles is entirely hand-made and artisanal, from the production and bottling of the Mezcal to the design of each label.

“The objects we produced are rich with information we both have shared with each other as friends and colleagues for more than 18 years. The social capital

accumulated over the years has allowed us to place our personal discourses in a field that keeps developing”

-Dr. Lakra and Abraham Cruzvillegas,
Los Dos Amigos, 2005

about the artist

Between his most important exhibitions we can mention: *Dr. Lakra*, Akvarelle Museet, Skarhamn, Sweden (2015); *Mexican Demons and Dancing Skeletons: Dr. Lakra in dialogue with Posada*, Hostelbro Kunstmuseum, Hostelbro, Denmark (2012); *Dr. Lakra*, Museo de la Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico (2011); *Dr. Lakra*, The Drawing Center, New York, United States (2011).

He has participated in group exhibitions in institutions such as: The Barbican, London, UK (2015); Nordiska Akvarellmuseet, Skärhamn, Sweden (2012); Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego, United States (2010); Museo Universitario del Chopo, Mexico City, Mexico (2010); Yokahama Museum of Art, Yokahama, Japan (2007); Museum of Modern Art MoMA, New York, United States (2007); among others.

Dr. Lakra lives and works in Oaxaca, Mexico.

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Dr. Lakra, *Untitled (toruko)*, 2017. Courtesy of the artist and kurimanzutto, Mexico City.

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