



Juan José Gurrola

La Mazeta, Primera Muestra de Obra ANTI-KINÉTICA de Juan José Gurrola

Opening reception Thursday, July 26 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Gaga is pleased to present the exhibition *La Mazeta, Primera Muestra de Obra ANTI-KINÉTICA de Juan José Gurrola* in collaboration with Mauricio Marcin on view from July 27th through October 13th, 2012.

The show is composed of two fragments. The first one presents a selection of thirty drawings from the 'Purple Book', a sketchbook composed of 102 pages on which Gurrola drew during a night in August 1979. This is the first time the drawings will be on view to the public. The second fragment of the show is made up of an office / live archive where the research and cataloguing of Gurrola's work will be open for view. Fernando Mesta and Mauricio Marcin curated this archive in conjunction with Fundación Gurrola A.C.

The first part of the show exemplifies a specific disciplinary exercise by displaying the 'Purple Book' drawings, the second part configures and makes visible through the archive the notion of Gurrola as a multifaceted artist traversing indistinctly between disciplines and 'occupying all lanes at the same time,' quoting the artist (theatre, film, radio, architecture, literature, scenic arts, photography, video, drawing, painting, etc). About Gurrola, Jíbaro Pérez said, "The idea of Juan José Gurrola as a multimedia and interdisciplinary avant-gardist will finally lay still in Mexican pop culture by 2075."

The archive is presented on worktables. Different files will be showing diverse material related to Gurrola such as screenplays, unpublished poetry, photographs, playbills, documentation of his art, translations, texts, videos, etc. The tables function as a unifying space suggesting relationships between different moments of his work. On the subject Alfonso Reyes says, "To unify is not to flatten things by making them lose their self-expression, but to establish between them a regular system of connections. Life is a greater expression of itself while the connections between its different parts is higher".

In the same room as the archive a photography studio will be periodically registering Gurrola's work from private collections and Fundación Gurrola A.C., seeking to anthologize a catalogue raisonné of his artwork. In this sense, the more than three hundred located works will be registered and photographed throughout the exhibition.

The title for the show *La Mazeta, Primera Muestra de Obra ANTI-KINÉTICA de Juan José Gurrola* is a reference to a phrase used on the film *Robarte el Arte* which the artist along with Gelsen Gas and Arnaldo Coen filmed in Kassel, Germany during Documenta 5 in 1972. In the film the trio steal the art from museums and galleries and paste it with scotch tape on a rock at Wilhelmsöhe Park. The stolen art is trapped underneath an asterisk and is available to the curious passerby. After a few seconds a spectator approaches the scotch tape sign and observes it. At this moment in the film the artists thank the spectator for contemplating for a moment the artwork and they break out in joy for having created the first anti-kinetic piece of art. Their thesis might probably be false and they might have not created the first piece of anti-kinetic art. In any case, this is for sure Juan José Gurrola's first anti-kinetic art show.

The 'Purple Book' is made up of figurative and abstract drawings. Within the figurative works Gurrola drew a series of flowerpots and plants. In the flowerpot drawings the artist always recalls the woman motif: "The female figure is the totality of forms. Taking into account past decisive and great moments of my life, the drawing of a curtain or sheet become women in a seducing act, of absolute and extreme lust. I don't see a tree but a woman's butt or a young

woman's attitude while looking underneath something. Extremely strange but the form is so strong to the eye."¹

La mazeta is the beginning of a long-term project alongside Fundación Gurrola A.C. that seeks a new circulation and reading on Juan José Gurrola's artwork as well as the study of its links with the rest of his oeuvre.

Juan José Gurrola (1935 - 2007) was a Mexican theatre, film and radio director, architect, translator, actor, playwright, set designer, performer, raver, painter and photographer. Formed part of *Poesía en Voz Alta*, *la Maffia* and *Poekia* among others. In 1962 Gurrola and a numerous group of collaborators founded the independent theatre company "Estudio de Investigaciones Escénicas A.C." He was recipient of the Rockefeller Foundation Grant (1960-1963), the British Council (1964), the Guggenheim Foundation (1972) and the German Government (1974). In 2004 the Mexican Government awarded him with the National Arts Price.

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Don't miss it!
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Special thanks to Kuxie Von Wuthenau, Patricia Sloane, Juan Antonio Gurrola & César Cervantes.

¹ In Merry Mac Masters interview published in *La Jornada*, April 26, 2000 on Gurrola's exhibition at the Jose Luis Cuevas Museum.