



For Immediate Release

*Cura(Collected)*

November 4 - December 17, 2017

Closing Performances: Sunday, December 3, 5:00pm - 7:00pm



A collaboration by Anjuli Rathod, Eduardo Restrepo Castaño, Oscar Moises Diaz and accompanying text by Manuel Arturo Abreu.

Featuring contributions by Lily Sheng, Justin Cabrillos, Matthew Shalzi, Carmelle Safdie, Karina Puente, Mauricio Esquivel, Crack Rodriguez, Mariana Herrera Castaño, Nancy Chavarria, Veronica Vides, and Sayre Quevedo.

Organized by Sessa Englund

Knockdown Center is pleased to present the third rendition of *Cura(Collected)*, an exhibition series that centers artists who curate, on view November 4th - December 3rd, 2017. This edition features a collaborative project by Anjuli Rathod, Eduardo Restrepo Castaño, Oscar Moises Diaz with an accompanying essay by Manuel Abreu. All three are creators whose involvement in the artistic community has had a generative impact on their local art scenes, and for this occasion each artist has brought in collaborators and community for a series of ongoing, cumulative performances and actions that will take place within an architectural structure inside of the gallery each week.

Born out of conversations between the three participating artists, the exhibition focuses on curation as an invested act. Exploring the type of spaces curators create, the show investigates how these spaces can be expanded to include ideals of care, empathy, and nurture. The artists maintain that curation within an artist-to-artist structure fosters a web of nuances that open up more intimate readings and handlings of art objects. By singling out actions and objects Rathod, Diaz, Restrepo, and their invited collaborators spotlight the familiarities that come out of certain social contracts. With respect to their ongoing areas of focus, this collaboration will result in a presentation of each artists' individual practices in a collective light.

The exhibition is active and accumulating via performances and interventions from November 4th through December 3rd, with closing performances on December 3rd, 5:00-7:00pm. The final installation remains on view through December 17th. A full schedule of weekly activations to be announced.

Knockdown Center gallery hours are Thursday and Friday from 5 PM to 9 PM, Saturday and Sunday from 2 PM to 8 PM. Knockdown Center is located at 52-19 Flushing Ave, Maspeth, NY 11378.

### **About the series**

The *Cural/* series was originally conceived by Sessa Englund. For each exhibition three invited artists who have a strong curatorial practice work together to create a collaborative show, driven by conversation between the participating artists and their ongoing research. There is no traditional curator organizing the show, instead, the exhibition and essay are developed through this discussion. *Cural/* emerges from the tendency of many artists today using curation not only as a form of organization within their communities, but also as an inseparable part of their artistic practice. The series asks: is the role of the traditional curator necessary, or is a new role emerging from the shifting landscape of artists as organizers of their community? *Cura* explores these questions by making visible new networks that exist between artists, curators, and their collaborators.

### **About the artists**

Anjuli Rathod lives and works in Queens, New York. She received a BFA from School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and attended the AICAD/New York Studio Residency Program. She has participated in residencies at The Millay Colony of the Arts, the Studios at MASS MoCA, and the Shandaken Project. Her work has been published in Lumina Journal and Hyperallergic. She also co-founded Selena, an artist-run space in Brooklyn. She has an upcoming exhibition at Projet Pangeé, Montreal.

Eduardo Restrepo Castaño graduated from Tufts University in Boston. Restrepo Castaño examines, through a practice that draws from academic, artistic, and lived experience, the relationship between social imaginaries surrounding nature, gender difference, and the diasporic condition. Co-founder of curatorial platform Sweety's, as well as participant at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Restrepo Castaño has exhibited in spaces such as: SOMA (Mexico,) Musée de l'Élysée (Switzerland,) and Bruce High Quality Foundation (New York,) Museum of Jaén (Spain.) Restrepo Castaño has been the recipient of Full Tuition Bright Futures Scholarship, from Florida Department of Education Merit Scholarship, from School of the Museum of Fine Arts, 1st Place Photography Award, From Here... 32nd Annual Exhibition, Stephen D. Paine Full Fellowship, From the Boston Foundation, Ann and Graham Gund Fellowship, sponsored participation at Skowhegan '13

Óscar Díaz is a Salvadoran artist born in Soyapango, but lives in Brooklyn, NYC. Recent

exhibitions Including the Sonora for the X Biennial of Central America, a solo show at the Museum of Contemporary Art & Design, Costa Rica, PERFORMEANDO at the Queens Museum, The Wrong: New Digital Art Biennial and Espacio Intermedial for The International Film of San Salvador.

Manuel Arturo Abreu is a poet and artist from the Bronx. They work in text, ephemeral sculpture, photography, and whatever is at hand. They co-facilitate home school, a free pop-up art school in Portland, OR.

### **About the organizer**

Sessa Englund was born in CT, USA but spent their formative years in Sweden. They currently live and work in NYC and Gothenburg, Sweden. Their practice encompasses: sculpture, design and curating. They are also the Co-Founder and, co-Curator of Disclaimer Gallery, and the Cura[projects] series. Sessa, has a Bachelors of Fine arts from School of Art+Design, SUNY Purchase (2013). Their work has been exhibited internationally. Recent exhibitions include: MoCA Denver, Transmitter Gallery, Satellite Art Fair, Miami Art Basel. Their work has been written about and published in New York Times, i-D, Floorr Magazine, Hyperallergic, Whitehot Magazine and Posture Magazine. They has also participated in residencies such as: TFNF (Dumbo, NYC), and an upcoming residency at AADK Centro Negra in Blanca, Spain.

### **About Knockdown Center**

Featuring programming of diverse formats and media, Knockdown Center aims to create a radically cross-disciplinary environment. The particularity of our architectural environment and history leads us to gravitate toward projects that demonstrate a sensitive reactivity to site and environment. Visit our website, or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

### **Press Inquiries:**

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