

## Press Release

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# MARCELLO MERCADO IN MEDIAS RES

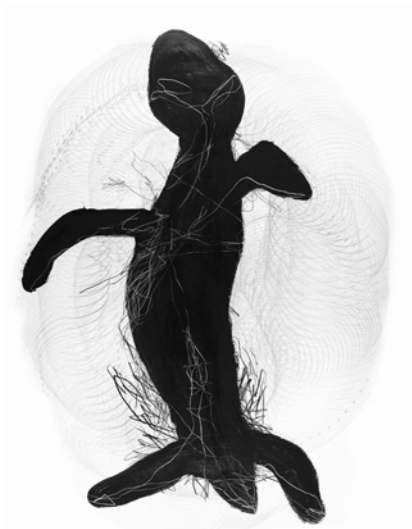
Paintings, drawings,  
objects, video art

Goethestraße 2-3, 10623 Berlin  
Entrance B via the courtyard

September 3, 2016 - Oktober 26, 2016

Opening: September 2 2016, 7 - 9 pm

The artist is present.



Marcello Mercado, *Heinrich*, Acryl, Bleistift, 2015.  
Courtesy: The artist and Galerie Bernet Bertram, Berlin

Gallery Bernet Bertram is pleased to present the upcoming exhibition by **Marcello Mercado**, featuring several of his paintings, large scale drawings, objects, and video and audio art.

Marcello Mercado's work is research as practice: the artist engages with a culture of experimentation and his work spans a wide range of media of equal importance. Analogue working methods form a vital part of the artist's work, in addition to his use of data string processing, genetic materials and advanced technologies as media, which he engages with playfully as if he were playing a keyboard. He is a poetic artist; both a transformer and seismograph, he bridges gaps between digital and organic worlds.

Mercado's **canvases in oil, acrylic, and pigment** move between the fictitious and the real, the figurative and the abstract. The artist dedicates himself to ethical and philosophical themes in his use of dark and illuminated areas of the image as displayed in his works 'Schwarzes verwundete s Tier 1/2', 'The Location' and 'Schnee', where dominant dark purple and black, or pale blue tones and patches of colour in vibrant magenta open up new perspectives. Mercado works against the light once again in his large scale painting 'Heimatlicht', a work that serves as a memory of his Argentinean roots and resembles a wall spanning mural. Smaller format works such as "Erdkern I/II" and "STZ3" are precise reductions, whereas "BLR", "GTRXD", "Ur-Blau" and "Postmoderne Distanzierungen I/II" create contrast. They emerge as **three dimensional objects** with their employment of salt crystals, enamel and chalk.

Mercado's strategy with his **large format drawings** is similar and yet somehow different. In these works he collaborates with small robots that he deliberately despatches across the paper. When steered remotely or via their own movements, they create fine layers, linear figures and a kinetic, electrified registrar that Mercado redraws and accentuates in a figurative manner, as demonstrated in his drawing depicting an amphibian, 'Heinrich'. With these works, the artist aims to discover and sketch all possible micro elements and details, to render the invisible visible, as illustrated in his large format work 'Mapping'.

Mercado's **video works** are the result of intensive periods of research in which he seeks to generate an objectified and audio-visual sense of time. In "**Summa/Notationen**" he reduces musical interpretations of Mozart's classic *Don Giovanni* to durations of one second each. In "**Löschen/Delete**" Mercado has created his own alphabet as a poetic series of gestures using moving ideograms. In "**Hybridizing\_Text**" he poses the question: "What do the great people, the key thinkers, leave behind?" In this game of quality versus quantity Plato's works encompass 375 KB in digital form; Confucius's are 2 MB and those of the author Jorge Luis Borges are equal to 125 MB.

Mercado describes his largest video work "**Das Kapital**", which he worked on for ten years and spans 40 hours in its original version, as an 'oratorium'. The 15' 58" excerpt in the exhibition shows the net worth of excessive work in its permanently inefficient dissolution and regeneration of new structures. It concerns image and energy production of amalgam landscapes with enormous network tentacles, foiled by the bodies of murdered human beings of the dictatorship in Argentina. Or, as media philosopher Siegfried Zielinski expressed it, "In his (Mercado's) animations the images of the maltreated bodies of people and animals have dissolved, as if in an acid bath. They then suddenly reappear in certain sequences in their original form, like memories."  
Text: Christian Bertram

**Marcello Mercado**, born in Argentina in 1963, has been living and working in Brühl/Cologne since 1999. He was a scholarship holder at the Kunsthochschule für Medien in Cologne as well as a grant recipient of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, USA, and Stiftung Niedersachsen at Edith-Russ-Haus für Medienkunst in 2013. His work has been shown in solo and group exhibitions since the 1990s, including in the Villem Flusser exhibition at Akademie der Künste, Berlin, at Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie, Karlsruhe (ZKM), at Transmediale, Berlin, at Osnabrück Kunsthalle, at Museum Ludwig in Cologne as well as at the 49th Venice Biennale. Mercado's works are in numerous collections including LIMA, Amsterdam (Netherlands), Museo de Arte Moderno, Buenos Aires, the Daniel Langlois Foundation, Montréal, Canada, the Video Study Center of the Museum of Modern Art, New York and Galería Vanguardia, Bilbao (Spain).

**Special Events hosted by the gallery in autumn:**

**Friday, September 17, 2016 at 8pm**

**The renowned actor Friedhelm Ptok reads Ezra Pound: from the Cantos, Part 1  
With a catalogue presentation of 'Rolf Behm - Die Koffer / Suitcases'**

**Friday, October 14, 2016 at 8pm**

**Friedhelm Ptok reads Ezra Pound: from the Cantos, Part 2**

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**Opening hours:**

Tuesday - Friday: 12 - 6pm,  
Saturday: 12 - 6pm and by appointment  
**Extended opening hours during Berlin Art Week, 13 - 18.09.2016**

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