

PUBLIC ART FUND TALKS AT THE NEW SCHOOL

ABRAHAM CRUZVILLEGAS



OCTOBER 22, 2014
6:30-8:00 PM

Vera List Center for Art and Politics
The New School, 12th Street Auditorium
66 West 12th Street
New York City

ABOUT

Public Art Fund

Public Art Fund brings dynamic contemporary art to a broad audience in New York City by mounting ambitious free exhibitions of international scope and impact that offer the public powerful experiences with art and the urban environment.

This program is supported by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Public Art Fund is a non-profit art organization supported by generous contributions from individuals, foundations, and corporations, and with funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts. PublicArtFund.org

Vera List Center for Art and Politics

The Vera List Center for Art and Politics is an idea incubator and a public forum for art, culture, and politics. It was established at The New School in 1992—a time of rousing debates about freedom of speech, identity politics, and society’s investment in the arts. A pioneer in the field, the center serves a critical mission: to foster a vibrant and diverse community of artists, scholars, and policy makers who take creative, intellectual, and political risks to bring about positive change.

We champion the arts as expressions of the political moments from which they emerge, and consider the intersection between art and politics the space where new forms of civic engagement must be developed. We are the only university-based institution committed exclusively to leading public research on this intersection. Through public programs and classes, prizes and fellowships, publications and exhibitions that probe some of the pressing issues of our time, we curate and support new roles for the arts and artists in advancing social justice. www.veralistcenter.org

The Public Art Fund Talks at The New School *are organized by the Public Art Fund in collaboration with the Vera List Center for Art and Politics.*

PROGRAM NOTES

Abraham Cruzvillegas is one of the most important conceptual artists of his generation to come from the vibrant art scene in Mexico City. For his Public Art Fund Talk, Cruzvillegas will speak on his ten-year body of work titled *Autoconstrucción*, or “self-building.” He associates *autoconstrucción* with an improvised approach to domestic architecture that is deeply informed by the development of his childhood neighborhood, Pedragales de Coyoacan, in the south of Mexico City. Built beyond the boundaries of the urban plan, on a hillside of volcanic rock, the self-made neighborhood required an approach to building, materials, and community solidarity that has served as both a metaphor and a methodology for Cruzvillegas’s ongoing approach to artmaking. As such, his diverse practice includes sculpture, installation, film, and performance works that utilize found objects, assemblage, and improvisation to address subjects such as survival economics, labor, and hybridity. For Cruzvillegas, *autoconstrucción* “is a process full of human warmth and solidarity among neighbors and relatives. It is important not just as collaboration, as shared capital, but also as an enriching learning for everyone who is part of a community, helping them to understand their own circumstances.”

Abraham Cruzvillegas (b. 1968, Mexico City) lives and works in Mexico City. Solo exhibitions of Cruzvillegas’s work have been presented in institutions worldwide, including the Fundación/Colección Jumex, Mexico City (2014); Haus der Kunst, Munich, (2014); Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2013); Modern Art Oxford, United Kingdom (2011); The New Museum, New York (2011); and the CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco (2009). He has also been included in numerous biennials, including the 50th Venice Biennale (2003), Istanbul Biennial (2011), Documenta 13 (2012), and the 9th Gwangju Biennale (2012). He is a member of The International Taoist Tai Chi Society, studied Pedagogy at the National University of Mexico, and was a member of Gabriel Orozco’s workshop from 1987 to 1991. He participated in artist-run projects Temístocles 44 and La Panadería and founded La Galería de Comercio in 2010. Cruzvillegas is represented by Kurimanzutto in Mexico City, Regen Projects in Los Angeles, and Galerie Chantal Crousel in Paris.

For related classes, please visit www.newschool.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Vera List Center for Art and Politics

APERTURE AT THE NEW SCHOOL

**Confounding Expectations: The Space Between:
Redefining Public and Personal in
Smartphone Photography**

Thursday, October 30, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

THERESA LANG COMMUNITY & STUDENT CENTER, 55 WEST 13TH STREET

THE YEAR OF JAMES BALDWIN

**Artist Leslie Hewitt in
conversation with curator Thomas J. Lax and
cinematographer Bradford Young**

Monday, November 3, 2014, 6:30 pm

WOLLMAN HALL, 65 WEST 11TH STREET

THE YEAR OF JAMES BALDWIN

**“James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket”
Special 25th Anniversary Screening**
Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 6:30–8:30 pm

TISHMAN AUDITORIUM, UNIVERSITY CENTER, 65 FIFTH AVENUE

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Sam Falls

Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 6:30–8:30 pm

THE NEW SCHOOL, THE AUDITORIUM AT 66 WEST 12TH STREET
\$10, FREE TO ALL STUDENTS AND THE NEW SCHOOL FACULTY, STAFF AND
ALUMNI WITH VALID ID

THE AICA-USA DISTINGUISHED CRITIC LECTURE AT THE NEW SCHOOL

Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev
Thursday, November 20, 2014, 6:30–8:00 pm

THE NEW SCHOOL, THE AUDITORIUM AT 66 WEST 12TH STREET

ADMISSION TO ALL EVENTS IS FREE UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE.

COVER IMAGE: ABRAHAM CRUZVILLEGAS, STILL FROM AUTOCONSTRUCCIÓN: THE FILM,
2009. HD VIDEO, COLOR, SOUND; 62 MIN. COURTESY THE ARTIST AND KURIMANZUTTO.

Alvin Johnson-J.M.Kaplan Hall
66 West 12th Street, Room 604
New York, NY 10011
212.229.2436
vlc@newschool.edu
www.veralistcenter.org

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ART-FUND**

**THE VERA LIST CENTER
FOR ART AND POLITICS
THE NEW SCHOOL**