

IS IT A SMOKE SIGNAL?

What does it mean to see the aftermath of an event without actually witnessing it? *Tania Pérez Córdoba: Smoke, nearby* reaffirms that actions have consequences—whether we see them or not. The exhibition showcases sculptures in the process of transformation: forms become memories and objects compress time and space, serving as records of past events.

Although the artist inscribes her sculptures with narratives alluded to in the exhibition labels and section panels, the everyday objects she uses evoke personal experiences and memories. As a result, Tania Pérez Córdoba's sculptures are simultaneously personal and public, intimate and distant, familiar and generic, meaningful and inconsequential. They are inanimate objects that—if we allow ourselves to engage with them—come to life and reveal individual values, affections, and narratives.

Pérez Córdoba's work both reaffirms our individuality and encourages us to acknowledge that, while the sculptures mean different things to different people, our differences of opinion reaffirm our collective experience as human beings.

A Person Possessed by Curiosity, 2015

Wood-fired clay and Banamex bank account
Galerie Perrotin—private collection

A debit card account was opened and activated for a sculpture. The physical object was embedded onto it, leaving the card's numbers exposed. Transactions can still be made electronically until it expires. Financial negotiations come into play in the wood-fired clay platter.

Untitled, 2015

Bronze poured into sand
and approximations in scale

Private collection

They Say It in the Street, 2015

Glass from a window facing south and
cardboard packaging

Courtesy of the artist and José García, mx

Dogs When Barking (They Say), 2015
Glass from a window facing north,
adhesive plastic, and a cigarette butt
Courtesy of the artist and José García, mx

They Say It's Like a Rock, 2015

Glass from a window facing south and
handmade pinewood incense

Courtesy of the artist and José García, mx

They Say It Makes Miracles, 2015

Glass from a window facing north and
a plastic bag

Courtesy of the artist and José García, mx

They Say It Was on Purpose, 2015

Glass from a window facing south and
nail polish

Courtesy of the artist and José García, mx

They Say It's Common, 2015

Glass from a window facing south and
a broken bracelet

Courtesy of the artist and José García, mx

They Say a Lot, 2015

Glass from a window facing north
and plywood

Courtesy of the artist and José García, mx

The Politicians (They Say), 2015

Glass from a window facing north and
electrical tape

Courtesy of the artist and José García, mx

They Say What They Can, 2015

Glass from a window facing north and

Avène soap-free cleansing gel

Courtesy of the artist and José García, mx

They Say It Happens for a Reason, 2015
Glass from a window facing south and
an acoustic guitar string
Collection of Gheri Sackler

Chasing, Pausing, Waiting, 2014

Blush, bird droppings, cigarette ash (from a smoker wanting to quit), and black marble

Private collection

Handhold 7, 2016

Petrified soil

Courtesy of Galerie Martin Janda

Call Forwarding, 2013

Porcelain and a borrowed SIM card
Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros,
New York

Voice, 2013

Porcelain and a borrowed SIM card
Galerie Perrotin—private collection

Phone calls to two numbers are interrupted. The calls of anyone who tries to reach these anonymous cell phone holders will be redirected to their new SIM cards, rendering communication almost visible. The phone carriers are unidentified.

Detour, 2017

Analog and digital photograph

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and joségarcía, mx

Untitled, 2017

Bond paper and a metal bar

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and joségarcía, mx

Untitled, 2017

Bond paper, metal bar, and wax crayon

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and José García, mx

Time-Lapse, 2017

Petrified earth dried in the shade, makeup, a cigarette butt, plastic wrapping, and a bill note
Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and José García, mx

She Said, He Said, 2017

Petrified earth dried in the sun and a
metal bar

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and José García, mx

He Said, She Said, 2017

Petrified earth dried in the sun and a
metal bar

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and José García, mx

Portrait of a Man Unknown, 2013/17

Oil on wood, metal sliders, and a man
occasionally wearing a shirt

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and José García, mx

Portrait of a Woman Unknown, 2013/17

Oil on wood, metal sliders, and a woman
occasionally wearing a dress

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and José García, mx

The fabrics of a shirt and dress belonging to an anonymous man and woman respectively (who live in Chicago but do not know each other) are depicted in paint. They will each visit the gallery periodically wearing these clothes to bring the two parts of the work—painting and shirt | painting and dress—closer. They may or may not meet.

Metronome, 2013/17

Slowed-down ceiling fan, disco ball motor,
one gold necklace, and ten fake gold necklaces
Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and José García, mx

Metronome, 2013/17

Slowed-down ceiling fan, disco ball motor,
and gilded necklaces

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and José García, mx

Placebo, 2017

Fifteen fake gold necklaces and
one gold necklace

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and José García, mx

First-Person Narrator, 2013/17

Marble and prescription cosmetic contact lenses in honey, green hazel, and blue (as worn by someone)

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda, and José García, mx

Color contact lenses rest on a marble shelf. They have the same prescription as that of an anonymous gallery visitor, whose gaze is connected to the object.

Third-Person Narrator, 2013/17

Marble and cosmetic contact lenses in
sapphire blue, hazel, and misty gray

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and José García, mx

Blink, 2017

Marble and a prescription cosmetic blue contact lens for the right eye (the left-eye contact is worn by someone)

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda, and joségarcía, mx

Far-Point Focusing, 2016/17

Adhesive, earth, gun powder, ash, makeup,
gold dust, and pulverized natural sedatives
Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and José García, mx

*Head West, Turn Right, Turn Right, Turn Left,
Turn Right, Continue, Turn Left, Continue,
Turn Right, Turn Left, 2017*

Approximations in scale and bronze poured
into sand

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and José García, mx

Head South, Turn Left, Turn Right, Turn Left, 2017
Bronze poured into sand and approximations
in scale

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and José García, mx

Copper Exists (Drop Test 1), 2017

Aluminum cast of a hole in a hill

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and joségarcía, mx

Hortensias Exist and Metal and Metal
(Drop Test 2), 2017

Aluminum cast of a hole in a hill

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and José García, mx

We Focus on a Woman Facing Sideways,
2013/17

Bronze, Swarovski Crystal drop earring,
and a woman wearing the other earring
Courtesy of the artist

A woman is missing her left earring. It is
suspended on a brass ribbon in the gallery.
Until it is reunited with its mate, the
sculpture exists in both places simultaneously.

Seā Wāves Exist, Seā Wāves Exist (Drop Test 3),
2017

Aluminum cast of a hole in a hill

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and José García, mx

From "About Us" to "About Us," 2017

Glass from a disappeared MCA window

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and joségarcía, mx

From "Us" to "Us," 2017

Glass from a disappeared MCA window

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and José García, mx

From "Us" to "Us," 2017

Glass from an MCA gallery ceiling light

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and joségarcía, mx

We Belong/We Dissent (from the series
Things in Pause), 2013/17

Marble, adhesive, and a borrowed guitar
string

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and José García, mx

We Belong/We Dissent (from the series
Things in Pause), 2013/17

Marble and a borrowed guitar string

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and José García, mx

10 Mexican Pesos, 1 US Dollar, 10 Mexican Pesos, 1 Mexican Peso, 2017

Bronze and melted beer cans

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and José García, mx

6 Pennies, 2017

Bronze and melted beer cans

Courtesy of Galerie Martin Janda
and joségarcía, mx

Live Chat, 2012/17

Glass, water, and fluorescent marker

Courtesy of the artist

*A Man Flexing His Biceps to Show Off His
Strength (Dropped Things Are Bound to Sink),
2012/17*

Orthopedic foam impression

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and joségarcía, mx

Humān, Nonhumān, Humān, 2017

Marble with makeup of various colors

Courtesy of the artist, Galerie Martin Janda,
and joségarcía, mx