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Carlos Motta

Désirs

Carlos Motta's multi-disciplinary artistic practice studies and documents the social conditions and political struggles of sexual and gender minority communities in an attempt to produce projects of self-representation that challenge dominant and normative discourses of sex and gender. As a historian of untold narratives and an archivist of repressed histories, **Motta** is committed to an in depth research-based practice that manifests in a variety of media including video, installation, web-based projects, live/discursive events, sculpture and drawing.

Carlos Motta : Désirs, the artist's first solo exhibition at mor charpentier, presents two new works: **Deseos / تابغر**, Motta's latest single-channel video and **La puissance et la jouissance**, an installation of drawings newly conceived for the gallery. Both pieces explore the historical representation of unconventional sexual desires as "indecent" and expose the institutional apparatuses that have produced such representations.

La puissance et la jouissance is a room-size installation composed of twenty miniature letterpress printed drawings installed behind the walls and made visible only by looking through with magnifying lenses. The drawings are based on a variety of historical images that depict unconventional sexual practices such as scenes of bestiality, hard gay sex practices, representations of female sexuality, Roman mythological figures engaged in sex, and religious iconography that has been appropriated by gay culture. The piece invites the viewer to experience the ways in which certain desires were historically constructed as unnatural and consequently rendered marginal and invisible. The piece's title references Copi's cartoon *La puissance ou la jouissance* made for the Front Homosexuel d'Action Révolutionnaire's *Rapport contre la normalité* from 1971.

The video **Deseos / تابغر** reveals the ways in which medicine, law, religion, and cultural tradition shaped dominant discourses of the gendered and sexual body through the narration of two parallel stories. The first is that of Martina, who lived in Colombia during the late colonial period of the early 19th century and who prosecuted Martina in 1803 for being a "hermaphrodite". The second is the life of Nour, who lived in Beirut during the late Ottoman Empire and who was required to marry her female lover's brother after her mother found them making love. The video presents an imaginary correspondence between these women. Separated by geography, culture, and religion they both faced the consequences of engaging in same sex relations and defying gender norms.

Deseos / تابغر was commissioned by Council (Paris) and co-produced by Hordaland Kunstsenter (Bergen), MALBA—Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires, Röda Sten Konsthall (Gothenburg), Galeria Filomena Soares (Lisbon) and mor charpentier (Paris).

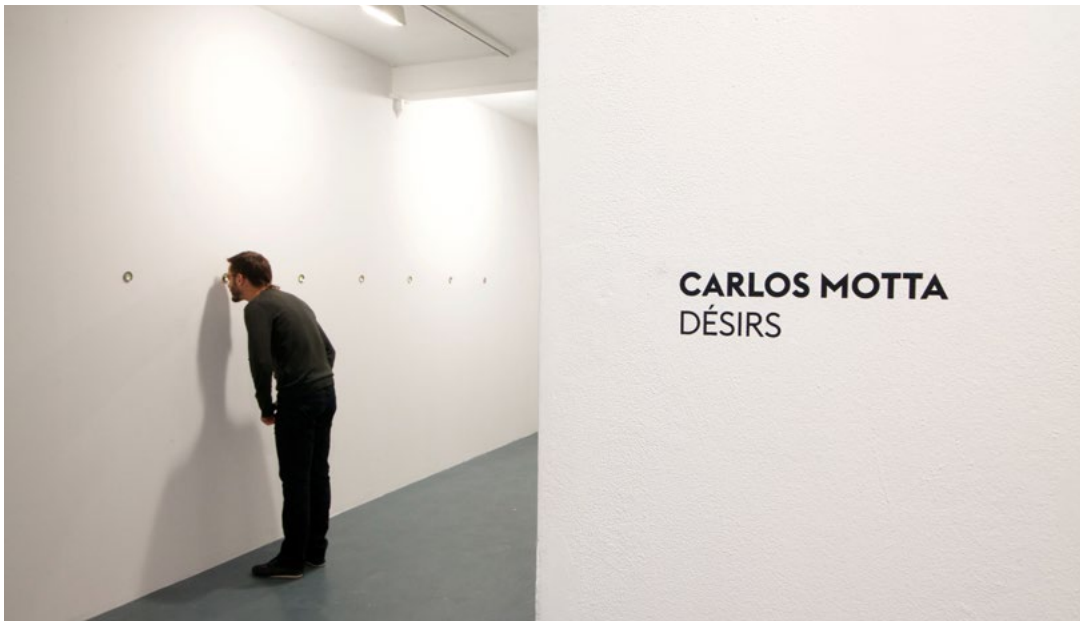
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Exhibitions

Views

September 5 — October 31 / 2015

DÉSIRS



Carlos Motta, Désirs
2015



Carlos Motta, Désirs
2015



Carlos Motta, Désirs
2015

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Exhibited works

La puissance et la jouissance

La puissance et la jouissance is a room-size installation composed of 20 miniature letterpress printed drawings installed behind the walls and made visible only by looking through with magnifying lenses. The drawings are based on a wide range of historical images that depict unconventional sexual practices such as scenes of bestiality, hard gay sex practices, representations of female sexuality, Roman mythological figures engaged in sex, and religious iconography that has been associated with gay culture. The piece's title references Copi's cartoon *La puissance ou la jouissance* made for the Front Homosexuel d'Action Révolutionnaire's *Rapport contre la normalité* from 1971.

La puissance et la jouissance, 2015

— Room-size installation composed of 20, 2,5 cm x 3,8 cm letterpress printed drawings with magnifying lenses and fluorescent lightbulbs
Edition of 5 + 2 AP

Price for edition 1 : 18 000 USD (taxes and installation costs not included)

— Edition 4/5, this serie will be divided in 4 groups of 5 prints with magnifying lenses.

Price: 7 000 USD each group of prints

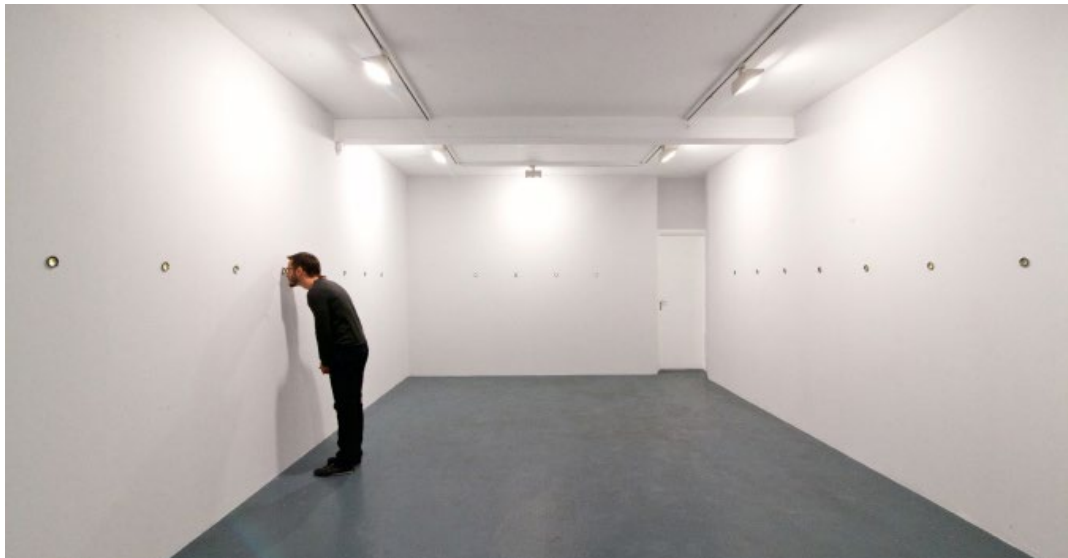
group 1 : 1 to 5

group 2 : 6 to 10

group 3 : 11 to 15

group 4 : 16 to 20

(taxes and installation costs not included)



La puissance et la jouissance, 2015

Room-size installation composed of 20, 2,5 x 3,8 cm letterpress printed drawings with magnifying lenses and fluorescent lightbulbs

Edition of 5 + 2 AP

Price: 18 000 USD (taxes and costs installation not included)

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1.



2.



3.



4.

La puissance et la jouissance, 2015

20 letterpress printed drawings

2,5 x 3,8 cm each

Edition of 5 + 2 AP each

1. Drawing based on sculpture the mythical half-goat, half-man Pan copulating with a nanny goat, Roman Empire

2. Drawing based on a sketch for Michelangelo's Last Judgement (19th century)

3. Imaginary portrait of Jesus Christ

4. Drawing based on the drawing The Garroted Man by Francisco Goya (1778)

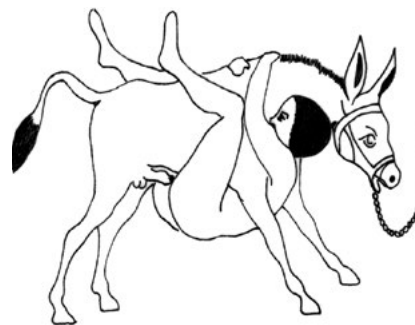
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5.



6.



7.



8.

La puissance et la jouissance, 2015

20 letterpress printed drawings

2,5 x 3,8 cm each

Edition of 5 + 2 AP each

5. Drawing based on an illustration by Shaykh Muhammad Ibn Mustafa Al Misri, Tuhfet Ul-Mulk, Turkey (1773)

6. Drawing based on the etching Linda maestra! by Francisco Goya (1798)

7. Drawing based on German porcelain plaque (1860)

8. Drawing based on an illustration for "Cheikh Nefzaoui" (c.1410-1434)



9.

La puissance et la jouissance, 2015

20 letterpress printed drawings

2,5 x 3,8 cm each

Edition of 5 + 2 AP each



10.

9. Drawing based on an illustration from Sequence of erotic scenes by Peter Fendi (c. 1835)

10. Imaginary drawing



11.



12.



13.



14.

La puissance et la jouissance, 2015

20 letterpress printed drawings

2,5 x 3,8 cm each

Edition of 5 + 2 AP each

11. Imaginary drawing

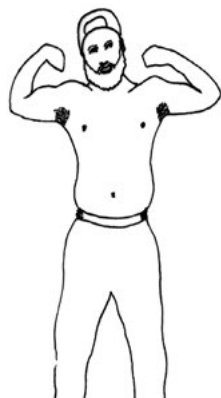
12. Imaginary drawing based on an image of Saint Sebastian

13. Drawing based on an illustration of a lesbian couple engaged in sex anonymously posted on Facebook (2015)

14. Imaginary drawing



15.



16.



17.



18.

La puissance et la jouissance, 2015

20 letterpress printed drawings

2,5 x 3,8 cm each

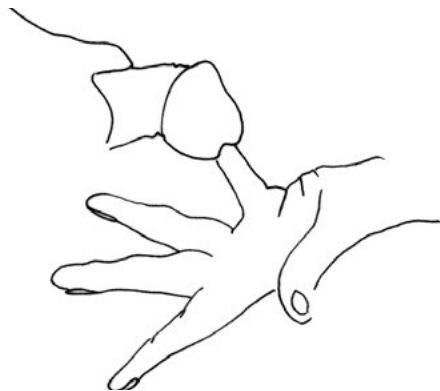
Edition of 5 + 2 AP each

15. Imaginary drawing

16. Drawing based on a Grindr profile picture (2015)

17. Drawing based on an illustration from Sequence of erotic scenes by Peter Fendi (c. 1835)

18. Imaginary drawing



19.



20.

La puissance et la jouissance, 2015

20 letterpress printed drawings

2,5 cm x 3,8 cm each

Edition of 5 + 2 AP each

19. Drawing based on the photograph Lou, N.Y.C in Robert Mapplethorpe's X Portfolio (1978)

20. Drawing based on a promotional poster for the Parisian gay hard sex club "Le One Way"



*A reading of Guy Hocquenghem's
"The Screwball Asses" and it's
reflection on desire on pages*

60-61, 2015

Unique edition

33,5 x 39 cm

La puissance et la jouissance (Artist Book)

La puissance et la jouissance is also available as a deluxe artist book.

Each artist book is conceived as "jewel case" in which the 20 miniature drawings are presented on coloured linen plates. A magnifying lens, included in the book, allows appreciating the details of each of the drawings.

—Hand-made linen portfolio containing
20, 2,5 x 3,8 cm letterpress printed draw-
ings with magnifying lense

Dimension :

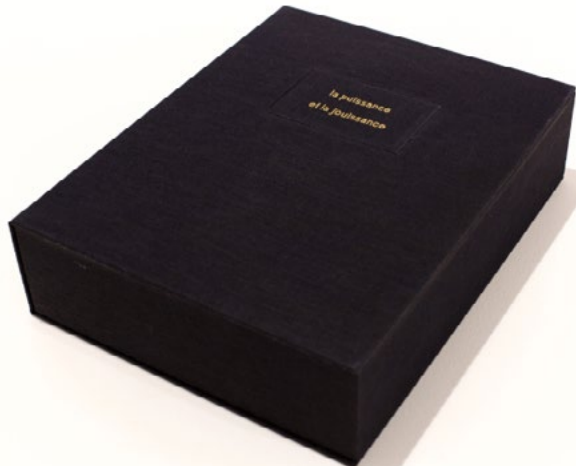
Closed : 9,6 x 29,6 x 37,2 cm

Open : 9,6 x 68 x 37,2 cm

Edition of 5 + 2 AP

Price: 8 000 USD (taxes not included)

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Carlos Motta, Désirs
2015
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DÉSIRS

Deseos / تابغور

Deseos / تابغور [Désirs] exposes the ways in which medicine, law, religion, and cultural tradition shaped dominant discourses of the gendered and sexual body through the narration of two parallel stories. The first is that of Martina, who lived in Colombia during the late colonial period of the early 19th century. The second is the life of Nour, who lived in Beirut during the late Ottoman Empire. Part documentary and part fiction, the film presents an imaginary correspondence between these women. Separated by geography, culture, and religion they both faced the consequences of engaging in same sex relations and defying gender norms.

The colonial court prosecuted Martina in 1803 for being a “hermaphrodite” after being accused by her female lover of having an “unnatural” body. Martina was tried in a court of law and ultimately set free after medical doctors appointed by the court were unable to find evidence of her lover’s accusation. This story is documented in the 1803 legal case found in the Archivo General de la Nación in Bogotá, Colombia. Meanwhile in Beirut, Nour married her female lover’s brother after her mother found them making love. Despite the fact that Nour’s story does not occur in a courtroom nor is it found in a legal case, notions of Islamic and late Ottoman laws, cultures, and histories condition her narrative.

Deseos / تابغور, 2015

Digital video, color, sound

HD 16:9

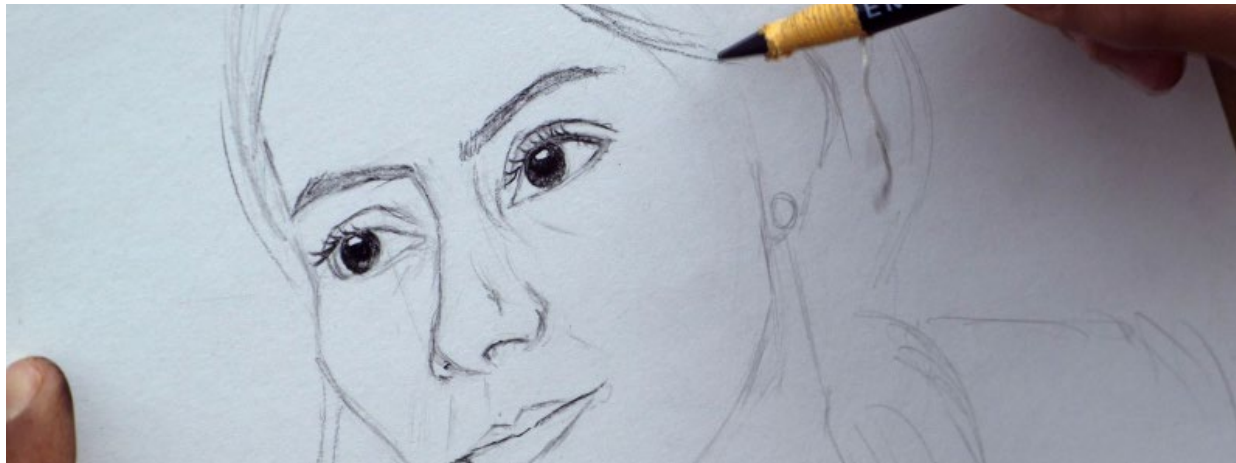
32:00 min, loop

Edition of 6 + 2 AP

**Price edition 1 : 15 000 USD (taxes
not included)**

PASSWORD: **BOGOTA**

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Deseos / تباغور, 2015

Digital video, color, sound

HD 16:9

32:00 min, loop

Edition of 6 + 2 AP

Price edition 1 : 15 000 USD (taxes not included)

Video stills

