







Bosque desnudo. Ricardo Rendón

Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City

The exhibition space *Sala Gamboa* of the Museo de Arte Moderno (Museum of Modern Art, Mexico Ciy) has been interested in showing proposals linked to cultural practices that restate daily relations between different aesthetics; and provoke a dialogue with the architectural conditions of the space, its circularity and its consequences in terms of perception.

With *Bosque Desnudo*, Ricardo Rendón links the contemporary artistic production with the reuse of natural materials seized by illegal tree cutting; and with the recovery of some processes of manufacture as the labor of woodturning.

The installation establishes a dialogue with the architectural language of the building through the union of its exterior - interior, circumstance that has marked the history of

the building. From its beginning the architectural project of the museum linked the building with the spatial characteristics of the outdoor forest. Recapturing this idea, *Bosque Desnudo* links the exhibition space with the exterior thanks to the transparence of the structure; an answer to the ideal of the conception of the museum: the integration of the contemporary work with the surrounding environment.

Consequently, the artist proposes a reflection of the relation between the natural and the manufactured, and record the manipulation of a material obtained from of a natural context.

Some of the fundamental ideas that enclose the production of Rendón - and take part in this installation - are: the supremacy of the manipulation of working materials, the work as document of the process of intervention and the recognition of different contexts as a way to find production tools and materials. All this becomes condensed in each of his works where the piece serves as a witness or container of the energy of the production process. It highlights the role of the material generating a definite aesthetic result. In this case the textures, colors and qualities of the manipulated trunks are fundamental to catapult the experience of the spectator.

The work of Ricardo Rendón uses hardware and working procedures as route to reflect on the idea of Labor. With this project he recovers the craft of woodturning to prepare the sculptures that integrate the installation. By involving himself in the production activity he questions the act to delegate the execution that comprise the creative process.

The execution contains a performatic character and it is extended thanks to its record during the transformation of the material.

Finally, it is important to notice that the material used for the installation was obtained thanks to the donation of public instances entrusted to seize trunks obtained by illegal chopping. For Rendón, this project needs to reinforce the topic of exploitation of natural resources. For the same he decided not to conceal with the formalism of the sculptures the origin of the trunks.

The exhibition offers the spectator a space of free circulation, a trip for a built, interior forest; an allegory of a visit on the Chapultepec Forest, place that lodges the Museum since 1964.

Graciela Kasep

Museo de Arte Moderno