

De tu puño y letra

On November 25, 2015 – the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women – the City of Quito, Ecuador presented the culminating performance of Suzanne Lacy’s most recent project—built on the aesthetics of relationship, activism, and social transformation—that contributed to a broad social movement in Ecuador.

Hundreds Involved in Planning

In Ecuador, an estimated 6 of every 10 women are victims of violence and only 10% of women escape violent partners. When Lacy arrived in Quito in 2014 she was introduced to the 2012 Cartas de Mujeres project, where 10,000 Ecuadorian women wrote letters on their experiences of violence. She saw the letters as an unanswered plea for action.

Mindful of the importance of supporting and building on the many public education initiatives in Ecuador, Lacy offered to centrally feature the letters in a new production. She brought together city government departments, non-governmental agencies, art organizations and educational institutions to work together in the design and production of the project.

Scores of men attended deeply impactful workshops on masculinities and violence—a curriculum designed by Timm Kroeger of GIZ, an NGO specializing in education on family violence. Each man “adopted” a letter from an unknown woman—an invitation to interrogate his understandings of family violence and through the vehicle of the performance, engage in the public conversation. After months of preparation, including the development of on-going curriculum on family violence in the Universidad de Las Américas (UDLA) Medical School, rehearsals began.

Collaborating Within and Outside of the Artist Community

Lacy’s work is based in a unique highly collaborative design process that engages scores of participants—drawn from a careful analysis of the local environment—in “what if?” sessions. Over time, people offer different talents and concepts to the evolving performance design, ensuring a carefully vetted and deeply participatory event. Many took on roles as advisors, producers, recruiters, and stage managers, among them writer Gabriela Ponce who drafted a script from 1,000 original letters; composer Bruno Louchouart who produced a stunning score with live and recorded sound; and filmmaker Oderay Game who produced the performance. (see below for more extensive credits?)

“Rarely does an art performance have a genuinely transformative effect. However, the planning and involvement of so many partners ensured maximum interest and participation, while the attendance of many city officials, including the mayor and his wife along with members of the press, ensured that the work instigated by Lacy and created in collaboration with a team of dozens of people, would continue to have resonance and impact long after the performance was finished.” Elizabeth Grady

COLLABORATORS AND TEAM

María Fernanda Cartagena, Curator

Oderay Game, Producer

Paulina Leon, Executive Coordinator of Centro de Arte Contemporáneo,

Gabriela Ponce, Scriptwriter

Bruno Louchouart, Sound Design

Mónica Moreira, Chief Recruitment team

Chía Patiño, Stage Director
Timm Kroeger, Workshop Design
Alex Schlenker, Azucena Sono, Creative consultation
Sofía Coloma, Chief Production Team
Arturo Yépez and Raúl Teba, Director's Assistants
Daniel Andrade, Light and DP
Felipe Aizaga, Grecia Albán, Milton Castañeda, Mariela Espinoza de los Monteros, Emile Plonsky, Mónica Moreira, Musicians
Javier Andrade, Director AV Documentation
Christoph Hirtz, Director Photographic Team
Francois "Coco" Laso, Director Video, A Blade of Grass
Alegría Mateljan, María José Salazar and Yauri Muenala Coordinators
Colectivo 3+1: Alejandra Pinto, Esteban Calderón, Karina Fernández ans Natalia Dueñas with Canela Samaniego and Andrés Miño
Gina Manrique and Freddy Cevallos, Logistics and Production Assitants
Juan Esteban Suárez, Logo Design
Mateo García Game, Mediators coordination

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Mauricio Rodas Espinel, Mayor of Quito
Daniela Chacón, Deputy Mayor of Quito
María Fernanda Pacheco, Presidenta Patronato
Pablo Corral Vega, Seceatray of Culture
Viviana Maldonado, German Cooperation GIZ
Julio Echeverría, Instituto de la Cuidad
Jorge and Stephanie Gabela, UDLA School of Medicine and Global Health
Bettina Korek, ForYourArt

MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS

Unidad Patronato Municipal San José
Secretaría de Inclusión Social
Secretaría de Coordinación Territorial y Participación Ciudadana
Secretaría de Seguridad y Gobernabilidad
Secretaría de Salud
Instituto de la Ciudad
Policía Metropolitana de Quito
Quito Turismo
Empresa Metropolitana de Agua Potable y Saneamiento
Centro de Apoyo Integral 'Las Tres Manuelas'
Fundación Teatro Nacional Sucre

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COCOA de la Universidad San Francisco de Quito
Facultad de Artes Universidad Central del Ecuador
Facultad de Arquitectura y Diseño de la Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador
Facultad de Comunicación de la Universidad Salesiana
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A Blade of Grass Fellowship for Socially Engaged Art

ONU Mujeres

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