

A Smoke Signal in Porto Alegre, Brazil, announces the Chief Curator and Team of the 9th Mercosul Biennial

On Monday, August 13th, the Fundação Bienal do Mercosul announced the appointment of Sofia Hernández Chong Cuy as the chief curator of the 9th Mercosul Biennial. Her curatorial team includes Mônica Hoff (Ground Curator), Raimundas Malašauskas (Time Curator), and Bernardo de Souza (Space Curator), as well as four Curatorial Cloud Fellows: Julia Rebouças, Sarah Demeuse, Daniela Pérez, and Dominic Willsdon.

The news was made public through a smoke signal done at the grounds of Porto Alegre's Usina do Gasômetro, one of the city's main cultural spaces. This signaling event, which gathered several people to the site, was an iteration of a larger communication strategy that forms part of the curatorial proposal for the 9th Mercosul Biennial: activating communication technology used across centuries.

The 9th Mercosul Biennial opens on September 13, 2013. Four main exhibitions are initially planned for venues such as Usina do Gasômetro, Museu de Arte do Rio Grande do Sul, and Santander Cultural. Additional venues housing specific art projects and exhibitions will be announced in the coming months. Around 90 artists – considered visionaries of the past, present and future – will participate in this upcoming edition of the biennial.

Patricia Fossati Druck, President of the 9th Mercosul Biennial, said yesterday: "It is with great enthusiasm that we announce the curatorial team who will organize for us a memorable Biennial, consolidating its position as one of the most important artistic and cultural events in Latin America."

Fundação Bienal do Mercosul

Created in 1996, the Fundação Bienal do Mercosul is a private, non-profit organization in Brazil. Its mission is to develop cultural and educational

projects in the field of visual arts, encouraging dialogues between contemporary artists and communities. The foundation organizes the Mercosul Biennial, recognized as the most comprehensive event dedicated to contemporary Latin American art.

Since its inception, the Fundação Bienal do Mercosul's priorities have been educational. Its guiding principles are: to consolidate its art biennial as a reference point in the fields of art and education, and to contribute in those fields with new research; to make social contributions with the pursuit of offering meaningful and concrete public benefits; to be part of processes of contemporary artistic creation and critical discourse; to create partnerships and engage sponsors for sustaining these activities, and; to have transparency in all its administrative procedures.

In its 17 years of existence, the Fundação Bienal do Mercosul has organized eight editions of its renowned visual arts biennial in Porto Alegre, Brazil, totaling: 1,366 participating artists; 3,850 artworks and projects exhibited, plus 16 public sculptures donated to the city of Porto Alegre; 64 different exhibitions; 192,058 m² of exhibition spaces, whether in existing or especially restored buildings and urban areas; 511 days of exhibitions open to the public; 4,507,904 visitors with free admission; 1,163,351 school bookings; 1,548 people trained and hired as mediators, and; 169 sponsors and patrons. In every edition of the biennial, over one thousand direct and indirect employment opportunities are created.

The Fundação Bienal do Mercosul's board members, as well as administrative and fiscal advisors, work voluntarily. All of the foundation's events and programs are open to the public free of charge, and are supported by a wide network of sponsors, partners and supporters.

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