

Oscar Muñoz  
*El Coleccionista*

Exhibition at carlier | gebauer  
25 January - 7 March 2020

**Press release**

**Oscar Muñoz | El Coleccionista**

25 January, 2020 – 7 March 2020

Opening: Friday, 24 January 2020, 6 – 9 pm

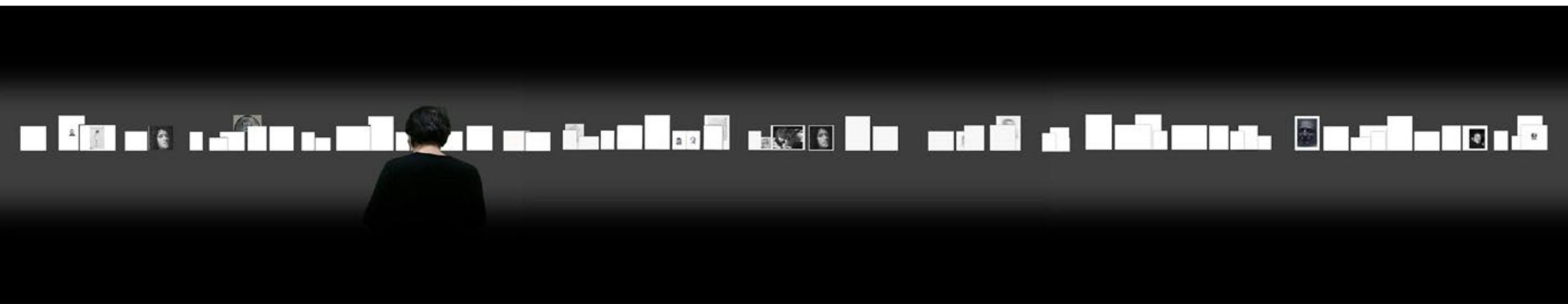
carlier | gebauer is pleased to announce *El Coleccionista*, a solo exhibition of recent works by Oscar Muñoz. One of the most significant artists working in Colombia today, Muñoz has exhibited extensively throughout the Americas, yet has received comparably less exposure to date in Europe. His first exhibition with carlier | gebauer is also the first time that his work will be exhibited in Germany.

Since the 1990s, Muñoz has developed a reputation for his use of ephemeral materials to explore elusive phenomena such as history, memory, loss, and time. His hybrid works combine photographic processes with drawing, painting, printmaking, installation, video, and sculpture in an attitude of alchemical experimentation. Muñoz's work stages scenarios in which we witness the accumulation, dissolution, deterioration, or disintegration of the image. Manipulating evanescent elements like water, dust, heat, sun, and time, he has poetically reflected upon the fleeting nature of the human condition through unconventional formats such as mirrored portraits activated by breath or a vanishing self-portrait made with water on hot cement.

In the exhibition's title work, the video installation *El Coleccionista (The Collector)*, a long, slender shelf spans the wall of a darkened room bearing sheets of blank white paper in various sizes. A spectral, practically transparent man slowly navigates the length of the wall, placing pictures on the shelf or otherwise moving, removing, or rearranging them. A collection of faces appears and disappears in these images: celebrities, politicians, art historical figures, and anonymous individuals. As an accumulation of intersubjective experiences—of seeing and being seen—this wide range of photographic material melds together as a fluctuating stream of memory, ranging from snapshots and newspaper photographs to studio portraits and mugshots. The inherent instability of the image and its relationship to the processes of memory, particularly as it relates to history and political events in the artist's native Colombia, is equally present in the works *Biografías* and *Ludovico's Method*. In *Biografías*, portraits of anonymous deceased individuals sourced from newspaper obituaries slowly distort before they dissolve and slip down a drain, only to reappear when the film is reversed. While *Biografías* alludes to that which recedes from the individual's view, but not from their memory, *Ludovico's Method* gestures towards something that one is forced to witness. An ocular speculum, like the one used to pry open Alex's eyes in *A Clockwork Orange*, holds a small projection screen playing Muñoz's video *Horizonte*, which contains fragments of a 1953 historical film document where the first Liberal guerrillas of Colombia deliver weapons.

If a photograph fixes a moving image in perpetuity, extracting it from the moving stream of life, then Oscar Muñoz's work operates in the temporal zone just before or after this decisive moment—a “proto-photographic” space. His practice circles around the moment of capture, the instance of becoming, charting “the pregnant moment between latent and visible image, between being and not, between memory and forgetting.”

**Oscar Muñoz** (b.1951, Popayán) lives and works in Cali, Colombia where he founded the independent non-profit space Lugar a Dudas. He has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions internationally at venues such as MoMA, New York; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Philadelphia Museum of Art; Fondation Cartier, Paris; SFMoMA, San Francisco; Jeu de Paume; Paris, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo; and The Museo Tamayo, Mexico City. Among other biennials, his work has been featured in the 51st and 52nd editions of the Venice Biennale. Muñoz's works in significant collections, including Tate Modern, London; MoMA, New York; Fundación “la Caixa”, Barcelona, Spain; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC; Los Angeles County Museum (LACMA), Los Angeles; Pérez Art Museum, Miami; Philadelphia Museum of Art; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; and SFMoMA, San Francisco.



Oscar Muñoz, El Coleccionista (The collector), 2014 - 2016  
3 - 5 synchronized video projections, 52 min with sound  
<https://vimeo.com/380676366> password: Munoz



Oscar Muñoz, El Coleccionista (The collector), 2014 - 2016  
3 - 5 synchronized video projections, 52 min with sound  
<https://vimeo.com/380676366> password: Munoz



Oscar Muñoz, El Coleccionista (The collector), 2014 - 2016  
3 - 5 synchronized video projections, 52 min with sound  
<https://vimeo.com/380676366> password: Munoz

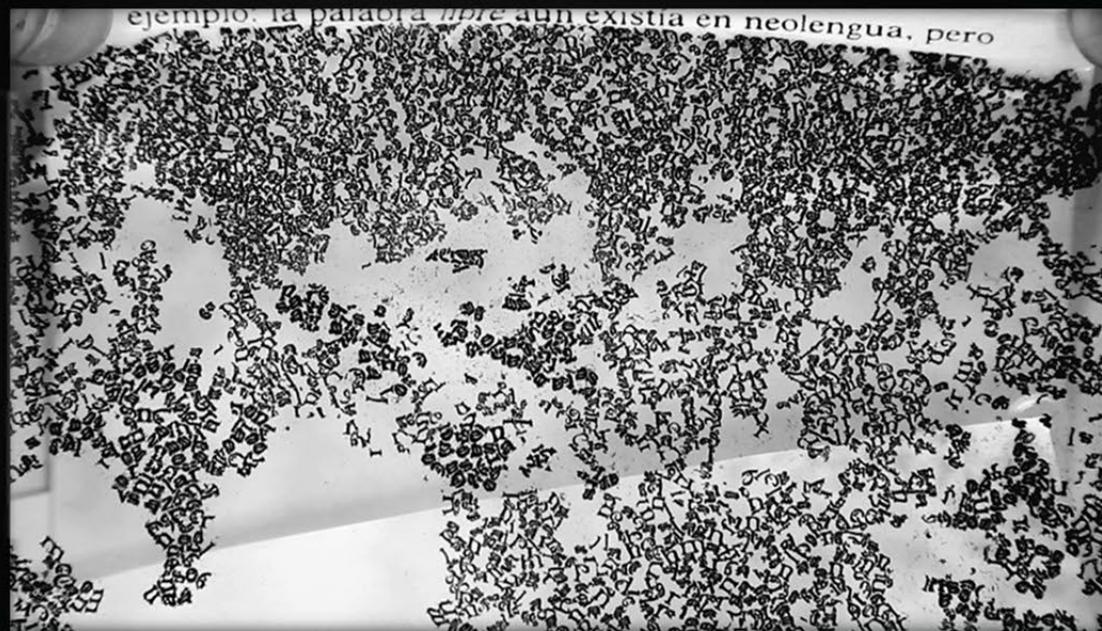
carlier | gebauer



Oscar Muñoz, El Metodo Ludovico, 2018, video installation, 17 min  
<https://vimeo.com/385459579> password: Munoz



Oscar Muñoz, El Metodo Ludovico, 2018, video installation, 17 min  
<https://vimeo.com/385459579> password: Munoz



Oscar Muñoz, Distopia, 2014, video HD, 22 min. mute  
<https://vimeo.com/385462040> password: Munoz





Oscar Muñoz, *Distopia*, 2014, video HD, 22 min. mute  
<https://vimeo.com/385462040> password: Munoz

Oscar Muñoz  
Palimpsesto, 2014,  
Impression with coal powder (toner) sheets of paper  
15 cm x 21cm

carlier | gebauer





Oscar Muñoz  
Intentos 1 y 2, 2004  
single channel video projection  
no sound, 4:3 format, 28 Min.  
<https://vimeo.com/385466943>  
password: Munoz

carlier | gebauer



Oscar Muñoz  
Intentos 1 y 2, 2004  
single channel video projection  
no sound, 4:3 format, 28 Min.  
<https://vimeo.com/385466943>  
password: Munoz

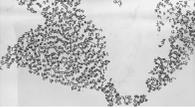
carlier | gebauer



Oscar Muñoz, Biografías (Biographies), 2002  
video-installation, sound, 7 Min.  
<https://vimeo.com/385468801> password: Munoz



Oscar Muñoz, Biografías (Biographies), 2002  
video-installation, sound, 7 Min.  
<https://vimeo.com/385468801> password: Munoz

1		<p>Oscar Muñoz  El Coleccionista (The collector) , 2014 / 2016  3, 4 or 5 Synchronized HD Projections, with sound  52 Min.  3/5  OM/2014/vid/21035</p>	80.000,00 \$ excl. VAT
2		<p>Oscar Muñoz  Ludovico's Method, 2018  video projector, 2 screens, fixed on wall, 1 small plastic screen  17 Min.  1/5  OM/2018/vid/21038</p>	45.000,00 \$ excl. VAT
3		<p>Oscar Muñoz  Distopia, 2014  video HD, no sound, 16:9  22 Min.  5/5  OM/2014/vid/21043</p>	45.000,00 \$ excl. VAT
4		<p>Oscar Muñoz  Palimpsesto, 2014  Impression with coal powder (toner) sheets of paper  15 x 21 cm  5/5  OM/2014/mix/21041</p>	40.000,00 \$ excl. VAT
5		<p>Oscar Muñoz  Intentos 1 y 2, 2004  single channel video projection, no sound, 4:3 format  28 Min.  4/5  OM/2004/vid/21037</p>	45.000,00 \$ excl. VAT

6



Oscar Muñoz  
Biografías (Biographies), 2002  
video-installation, sound  
7 Min.  
1/5  
OM/2002/vid/21036

45.000,00 \$ excl. VAT

---