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Cristóbal Gracia Mexico City, 1987

Lives and works in Mexico City.

Cristóbal Gracia reconfigures historical milestones and cultural and social phenomena through the investigation, connection and reconstruction of official chronicles, micro-stories and urban myths. His interests focus on the ideological and power systems that govern and have constructed the conception of contemporary Western civilization. Using tools such as humor, fiction, violence, desire, and failure, his work seeks to build baroque systems of disbelief and ostranenie to create the space and means of production necessary to cultivate different subjectivities.

In his work process he involves various creative agents, each participation, collaboration and production context gives a unique specificity to each project. Gracia tends to look for the tensions that art can generate when working with dichotomies and contradictions belonging to different fields of knowledge; in this dialectical process lies the opportunity to reshape life.

Gracia holds a MFA in Sculpture by the Yale School of Art, class of 2020 - 2022. Also, an BFA from the E.N.P.E.G Esmeralda, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude and later he attended to the Programa Educativo SOMA, both in Mexico City. He has been awarded with grants such as the BBVA-MACG Arte Actual and Jóvenes Creadores FONCA in the field of alternative media. He obtained the Fullbright García Robles scholarship and the Fundación Jumex Contemporary Art scholarship for studies abroad.

His work has been exhibited in prominent international venues such as Black Cube Headquarters, Palais de Tokyo, Lille 3000 Eldorado, Galveston Artist Residency Gallery, Dallas Contemporary, and Hamburger Bahnhof Museum. In Mexico City, his work has been shown in renowned spaces like Museo Tamayo, Museo Universitario del Chopo, Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil, Casa del Lago, and ESPAC, among others. In recent years, his pieces have been included in public and private collections such as the Fundación M Collection, Colección Suro, Murderme Collection, Phillips/Yuyito, JK Brown and Eric Diefenbach Collection, and the Museo Comunitario y Club de Lectura Sierra Hermosa.

He has participated in numerous artist residencies, including Bikini Art Residency (Lake Como), Viafarini (Milan), Biennial of the Americas (Denver), Grand Union (Birmingham), Casa Wabi (Puerto Escondido), Casa Nano (Japan), The Art House (Wakefield), Lugar Común (Monterrey), the Henry Moore Foundation (United Kingdom), and NARS Foundation (New York).

In 2015, he was selected as an ambassador artist for the Biennial of the Americas in Denver. He was a member of Biquini Wax EPS until 2020

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Cristóbal Gracia
(Mexico City, 1987)

Studies

Master's degree in Art (Sculpture), Yale University, 2020 - 2022, New Haven, USA

Educational Program SOMA, SOMA, Mexico City, Mexico

Bachelor's in Visual Arts, Escuela Nacional de Pintura, Escultura y Grabado "La Esmeralda", INBA, Honorary Mention, Mexico City, Mexico

Solo shows

2025

Paladio / Palladium, Human Resources, Los Angeles, USA

Cultured Baroque Pearls; The World Is an Oyster, which with Knife Will Open, Pequod Co., Mexico City, Mexico

2022

Ongoing Dreams of a Baroque Totality, Positions Sector, Art Basel Miami Beach 2022, Pequod Co., Miami, USA

2021

and a garden, the machinery of disbelief, and, Pequod Co., Mexico City, Mexico

A money laundering pond, which is also a painting, but it is not a painting of a pond, Best Practice, San Diego, USA

2020

Lucciole nella terza natura, Viasaterna, Milano, Italy

2019

Un pájaro roba dinero, Ladrón Galería, Mexico City, Mexico

2018

Revolving Catastrophes and Myths of a Beautiful World, Galveston Artist Residency, Galveston, USA

2017

Batiente 0.14 "El síndrome del miembro fantasma", Casa del Lago, Mexico City, Mexico

Aquatania parte 1: Un hombre debe ocupar el lugar que Dios le otorga – caminos selváticos o las calles de Hollywood – y pelear por las cosas en las que cree, Museo de la Ciudad de Querétaro, Querétaro, Mexico

2016

Aquatania parte 1: Un hombre debe ocupar el lugar que Dios le otorga – caminos selváticos o las calles de Hollywood – y pelear por las cosas en las que cree y pelear por las cosas en las que cree, El Cuarto de Maquinas, Mexico City, Mexico

Presagio de Muerte, proyecto vitrina, Arredondo / Arozarena, Mexico City, Mexico

2015

Fragments, David B. Smith Gallery, Denver, USA

Sector ACMA, Chalton Gallery, London, UK

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2014

Monumento a Balú, Casa Maauad, Mexico City, Mexico

Cristóbal Gracia at Venice 6114, Venice 6114, Los Angeles, USA

Sector ACMA, Arte Contemporáneo del Mas Allá, first edition, Centro Cultural Border, Mexico City, Mexico

2012

La fiesta se acabó, Biquini Wax EPS, León, Mexico

Group shows

2025

What We Hold On To, Black Cube Headquarters, Colorado, USA

2024

Coincidencias/Divergencias, Colección Cerámica Suro, Plataforma, Guadalajara, Mexico

Cerámica Suro: una historia de colaboración, producción y coleccionismo en el arte contemporáneo, Fundación Casa de México en España, Madrid, Spain.

Museo Movil, Apocalipsis Tropical, Arte en Acapulco. Cordoba lab, Oaxaca, La nave, Veracruz, Mexico.

2023

El fin de lo maravilloso, Biquini Wax EPS, Museo Universitario del Chopo, Mexico City, Mexico

Forging / Foraging, NARS foundation, NYC, USA

Fuerza del desierto. The Sierra Hermsa Community Museum and Reading Club, Human Resources, Los Angeles, Mexico

cerámica suro: a story of collaboration, production, and collecting in the contemporary arts, Dallas Contemporary, Dallas, USA

2022

Power Structure, Instituto de Visión, New York, USA

Todos me amarán: arte en México hoy, Fundación Casa de España, Madrid, Spain

Clamor progresista, a project by Abraham Cruzvillegas, Centro Cultural El Nigromante, Guanajuato, Mexico

Un grano de sal, curated by Alvaro Verduzco, El Palmar, Mexico City, Mexico

Next Day Soup, Universidad de Yale, New Haven, USA

Contemporary Sculpture from Mexico, curated by Dakin Hart and Alberto Ríos de la Rosa, Assembly, Monticello, NY, USA

2021

Cerámica Suro: una historia de colaboración, producción y coleccionismo en el Arte Contemporáneo, Museo de Arte de Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico

The Green Goddess Reloaded, Museo de Arte de Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico

Epilogue, Arteriam, Mexico City, Mexico

Otra vez, virtual show, Ladera Oeste, Mexico

2020

Otrxs mundxs, Museo Tamayo, Mexico City, Mexico

Los objetos en el espejo están más cerca de lo que parece, Museo Autoservicio Antara, Mexico City, Mexico

Siembra, Biquini Wax EPS at kurimanzutto, Mexico City, Mexico

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Any Two Things in the World Are Connected by a Third. The Secret Is Figuring Out What that Third Thing Is, augmented reality app, Pequod Co., Mexico City, Mexico

3rd Kamias Triennial, Manila, Philippines

2019

A Blindly Realized Possibility, Part II: Utterly Unspectacular, Biquini Wax EPS at The Box, Los Angeles, USA

XVIII Bienal de pintura Rufino Tamayo, Museo Tamayo, Mexico City, Mexico

City Prince/sses, Biquini Wax EPS at Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France

La Déssee Verte, Gare Saint Sauveur, Lille300 El Dorado, Lille, France

2018

II Salón Abierto de Pintura, Ladrón Galería, Mexico City, Mexico

Torridus, Clark House Initiative, Mumbai, India

Deslave presents; Terror en lo profundo, Human Resources, Los Angeles, USA

#núcleo, Galería Hilario Galguera, Mexico City, Mexico

XVII Bienal de pintura Rufino Tamayo, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Oaxaca, Mexico

Between the Beach and the Lounge, Play_Station, Wellington, New Zealand

A Dangerous Obsession, Biquini Wax EPS at Human Resources, Los Angeles, USA

Creación en Movimiento 2018 (with the support of Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes FONCA), Foto Museo Cuatro Caminos, Mexico City, Mexico

2017

Impresiones en el tiempo, ESPAC, Mexico City, Mexico

Amazonas Shopping Center (video program curated by Sira Piza), Hamburger Bahnhof Museum, Berlin, Germany

Agencia Viajes Paraíso, Kunstpalais Erlangen, Erlangen, Germany

Capital Capital, Galería Libertad, Querétaro, Mexico

Denominación de origen, Salón ACME, Mexico City, Mexico

De la formación a lo público, Arte Actual 4ª Edición 2016, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Tamaulipas, Matamoros, Mexico

Migration, The Art House, Wakefield, UK

2016

Creación en Movimiento, Museo de la Ciudad de Querétaro, Querétaro, Mexico

Kozmic Blues. Expresiones entre control y descontrol, Galería del Centro Cultural Universitario de la BUAP, Puebla, Mexico

Políticas del Polvo, Galería Emma Molina, Monterrey, Mexico

De la formación a la público, Arte Actual 4ª Edición 2016, Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil, Mexico City, Mexico; Parque Fundidora, Centro de las Artes, Monterrey, Mexico

Nosotros ya no somos los mismos (Seres de luz del trabajo inmaterial), Matucana 100, Santiago de Chile, Chile;

Museo de Arte de Zapopan, Guadalajara, Mexico

2015

Los Justos desconocidos (de todas maneras cago), El Cuarto de máquinas, Mexico City, Mexico

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Vis à Vis, Biennial of the Americas, McNichols Building, Denver, USA

Punk Povera, WUHO gallery, Los Angeles, USA

2014

Colectiva, Galería Tiro al Blanco, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

Made in Mexico, Polo Ralph Lauren in art, culture & fashion, TEP, La Ene, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Una línea de polvo, Arte y Drogas, Taller Espacio Alternativo, Oaxaca, Mexico

Solo en Casa, TEP, Biquini Wax EPS, Mexico City, Mexico

Horror en el trópico, Museo Universitario del Chopo, Mexico City, Mexico

Made in Mexico, Polo Ralph Lauren in art, culture & fashion, TEP, Divus, London, UK

Una línea de polvo; Arte y Drogas, Arte Actual Flacso, Quito, Ecuador

FIFTYFIFTY (50/50)...la chimba!, Galería STUDIO 488 Y PASTO, Buenos Aires, Argentina

El irresistible deseo de libertad, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes, Mexico

2013

Demasiado Futuro, Centro Cultural de España, Mexico City, Mexico

Comedores de Loto, Casa del Lago, Mexico City, Mexico

Salón Acme, Mexico City, Mexico

2012

VIR open atelier, Milano, Italy

Estado Alterado, Galería Massimo Audiello, Mexico City, Mexico

Cross Point, Galería Massimo Audiello, Mexico City, Mexico

Selección de selecciones, Galería Ajolote, Guadalajara, Mexico

Alguien aguantando la respiración y que no se preocupa por el color de sus manos por que es daltónico, Trama, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

2011

Open studio / estudio abierto, SOMA, Mexico City, Mexico

Dibujo Atómico, Galería Centro Morelense de las Artes, Cuernavaca, Mexico

My only regret is that I won't be able to kill you personally, Galería Centro de las Artes, parque Fundidora, Monterrey, Mexico

Versalles, una propuesta de Jorge Méndez Blake, exposición para carpeta y mesa, SOMA, Mexico City, Mexico

Bing Bang POP!, Bizonte lab, Toluca, Mexico

2010

Goodbye Vicente Nariou! TGP, Fundación ex Molino, Mexico City, Mexico

ThePrincipes, ex capilla San Rafael, Mexico City, Mexico

Los años maravillosos, Galería central CENART, Mexico City, Mexico

Fire is tire, Centro Nacional de las artes, alternative space, Mexico City, Mexico

2009

El reverso del mundo, Galería Metropolitana, Mexico City, Mexico

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Outsiders, Centro cultural Santa Rosa, Puebla, Mexico

2008

40 años del 68, casa Frissac, Mexico City, Mexico

Oro Negro, Museo de Historia de Tlalpan, Mexico City, Mexico

Fairs

2024

Material Art Fair, Pequod Co., Mexico City, Mexico

2023

Material Art Fair, Pequod Co., Mexico City, Mexico

2022

Art Basel Miami Beach, Pequod Co., Positions Sector, Miami, USA

Residencies

2023, NARS Foundation, Brooklyn, New York, USA

2022, Henry Moore Foundation Residency, The Henry Moore Foundation and the Yale Center for the British Art, Perry Green, UK

2019, Bikini Art Residency, Lake Como, Italy

2018, Galveston Artist Residency, Galveston, Texas, USA

2018, Casa Nano - Residency Program Fundación Casa Wabi, Tokyo, Japan

2017, Lugar Común, Monterrey, México

2017, Migration International Artist Residency Wakefield, Wakefield, UK

2016, Residency program Fundación Casa Wabi, Oaxaca, Mexico

2015, Grand Union, Birmingham, UK

2015, Biennial Ambassadors ArtPlant, Denver, USA

2012, VIR Viafarini, Milan, Italy

Grants and awards

2020, Fundación Jumex Arte Contemporáneo Scholarship Program, Fundación Jumex Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico

2020, Fullbright García Robles Scholarship, COMEXUS, Mexico-USA

2020, Critical Practice Fellowship, Yale School of Art, New Haven, USA

2017, Premio de Museología Crítica William Bullock – FEMAM, in collaboration with Natalia de la Rosa and Daniel Aguilar Ruvalcaba, Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes FONCA, Mexico

2015, Jóvenes Creadores, Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes (FONCA), Mexico

2015, PAC Grant (received through the Biquini Wax collective), Patronato de Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico City, Mexico

2014, BBVA Bancomer MACG Arte Actual Grant 4th Edition, BBVA, Mexico City, Mexico

2013, Beca de Apoyo a las Artes, Fundación BBVA, Sector A.C.M.A., Mexico

2011, SOMA PES Scholarship, SOMA, Mexico City, Mexico

Collections

Colección Fundación M, Mexico City, Mexico

Colección Suro, Guadalajara, Mexico

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Murderme Collection, London, UK
Phillips/Yuyito, Mexico

Written texts (selection)

STATS, Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, Colorado, USA, 2017
WEAPON OF CHOICE / COMPENDIO DE ARMAS BLANCAS, artist book, 2014
El ideal infinitamente variable de lo popular, Jeremy Deller en el MUAC, CAÍN magazine, exhibition reviews, January 2016
El genoma del arte, Excélsior newspaper, La Tempestad magazine, September 2015
Sol LeWitt, Wall Drawings (1968 – 2007), una retrospectiva de sus murales en México, TEP

Publications (selection)

Falsa tortuga: Una reflexión post mortem, by Víctor Manuel Palacios for GASTV, July 2021
HOW MIGHT WE Chapter 2, Cristóbal Gracia, FUORISALONE TV, June 2020
El ingenioso artificio naturalmente recuperado de hacer fuentes y grottas, Cristóbal Gracia, Pequod Co., June 2020
Five questions – Cristóbal Gracia, Forme Uniche, January 2020
An interview with Biquini Wax EPS and Yoshua Okón, moderated by Daniel Montero, PALAIS magazine, June 2019
Un objeto que es una cosa que es una obra, by Daniel Montero, UTOPIA 2 magazine, April – June 2019
Diez años de cultura digeridos por una ballena, Chilango, August, 2019
La CDMX inspira megalópolis imaginaria en el Palais de Tokyo de París, EL UNIVERSAL, June 2019
Nostalgía por la era Keiko, Confabulario, July 2019
Biquini Wax EPS, Letras Libres, September 2019
Un lugar común no es mi lugar; relaciones artísticas entre México y Estados Unidos en un mundo globalizado, por Daniel Montero Fayad, re – visiones
Acuérdete de Acapulco, Milenio digital, April 2018
Paradas esenciales en zona maco foto: un lujo para la vista, local.mx 2018
IMPRESIONES EN EL TIEMPO, ESPAC, 2018
CÓDIGO, 98, Cristóbal Gracia, WEAPON OF CHOICE / COMPENDIO DE ARMAS BLANCAS, May – June 2017
Artist create work on the theme of migration, Wakefield Express, May 2017
Aquatania, El cuarto de maquinas, Artforum, February 2017
Meet Mexico City's Breakout Star, Cristóbal Gracia, CULTURED, October 2016
Izan lábaro fantasma, Excélsior, October 16, 2016
More than a moment, CULTURED magazine, winter issue 2016
Aquatania parte I; Una Mirada crítica a distintos Acapulcos, local.mx, November 2016
Aquatania I, Caín 10, December 2016

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GASTV, September 2016

Aquatania parte I, HOTBOOK, October, 2016

Where's the Beef?, Excélsior, March 17, 2016

The New York Times, Art Scene Thrives on the Edges in Mexico City, March 11 2016

La escultura y sus cambios, Excélsior, January 2016

Painting is not an autistic activity, TERREMOTO, 2015

Los Justos desconocidos, Excélsior, October 28, 2015

Los Justos desconocidos, GASTV, October 2015

El cuarto de máquinas; cuestionan el ideal de justicia, Excélsior, September 2015

Westword, Cristobal Gracia and ArtPlant Host a FrenchFry Eating Contest — and It's Art!, April 2015

The Denver Post, Is it a French fry eating contest, or is it art?, April 2015

Cristobal Gracia's biennial art comes with a stack of fries, The Denver Post, April 2015.

The Denver Post, The Hammer nails Denver's first, unofficial French fry eating contest, April 2015

Westword, Biennial Ambassador Cristóbal Gracia on History and Violence as a Force of Art, February 2015

Colorado Public Radio, Denver and Mexico City artists swap cities for 2015 Biennial of the Americas, April 2015

Denver News, Mexican Artist Cristóbal Gracia on Casa Bonita, a Cultural Time Machine, Denver in time, April 2015

Diez espacios de arte independientes en la ciudad de Mexico, Código, November 2014

Bikini Wax, Frente, July 2014

Colectivos artísticos en la ciudad de México: un panorama, Código, June 2014

Caín, No. 3 Shows Review, March - April 2014, Sector ACMA

Sector ACMA; El espíritu esta presente, Revista Código, April 2014

Metroplois M, No 2, Onafhankelijk MEXICO, BIKINI WAX, April - May 2014

Entierran obras de arte, Periódico Excélsior, April 2014

Artistas (bien) muertos exponen en feria mexicana, Letras Explicitas, February 2014

Hacen burla de ferias de arte, ACMA, Reforma, February 2014

Cristóbal Gracia at Venice 6114, Artslant, February 2014

Bikini Wax, espacios alternativos en el D.F. Artreview magazine January / February 2014

Publication on magazine Marvin, bestias, February 2013

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Experience and teaching

Teaching assistant, Critical Practice, MFA, Yale School of Art, 2021

Museo Comunitario y club de lectura de Sierra Hermosa, Zacatecas, Mexico, coordinator. Public sculpture, bench and planter in honor of Juan Manuel de la Rosa, founder of the Museum.

MUAC, Museo Universitario de Arte Contemporáneo, Melquiades Herrera; Reportaje plástico de un teorema cultural, Mexico City, 2018

Biquini Wax EPS, Mexico City 2012 – 2020

SOMA - Fundación Bancomer BBVA; Por los que se quedan, 2014 – 2015

Lugar Común; Workshop of cold weapons, Monterrey, Mexico 2017

SOMA; De la inspiración a la conspiración, SOMA PES 2, Mexico City, 2016