

# balzer projects

PRESS RELEASE // SEBASTIAN MEJIA // BOTELLITAS

## **Sebastian Mejia | Botellitas**

December 11, 2016 - January 28, 2017

Private Preview: December 10, 17-19h

Seasonal Apéro and Vernissage: December 11, 15-18h

balzer projects is pleased to announce Sebastian Mejia's third solo show in the gallery, entitled *Botellitas*. On view is a new series of urban landscapes and a multi-perspective work, one of his 'canonical masterpiece galleries', entitled *Zu Viel ist zu Wenig*.

Mejia's work taps into the ongoing dialogue between the hybrid culture of Latin America and deeply rooted European cultural traditions. The native Colombian's objects, photographs, videos and installations are experimental set-ups. He addresses issues of globalization ambiguously, arguing that it does not open, but close international creative dialectical channels. Mejia is particularly concerned with the cultural dichotomies between the developing and developed world, as their history and presence reflect contemporary political tensions.

*Botellitas* keenly taps into this political context and evaluates landscape as concept. Utopian scenarios are explored, ranging from the architectural landscapes of megacities to the conceptual and poetic landscapes of art historical traditions. Mejia's work is never without irony and a sense of humor. By using the seemingly "unsophisticated" medium of permanent marker on plastic, the artist not only questions his own position within the canon, but also gives way to a continuous discourse over the classification of high and low art.

In *Botellitas*, Mejia takes the viewer onto a utopian expedition. City skylines are created through the compositional construction of, mostly recycled, plastic bottles. Urbanity and the effects of the accumulation of trash are interwoven with organic and living organisms. Through Mejia's unique and consistent choice of materials, he is not only mimicking the traditional composition of a painting, he also creates a dialogue between the realms of mass production and artistic practice.

In addition to the foil landscapes, *Botellitas* also showcases a new monumental perspective piece. *Zu Viel ist zu Wenig* is reminiscent of Mejia's earlier work, such as *Painting Exhibition or Spring Salon. A trompe-l'oeil*, Mejia's work echoes the extensive museum halls with massive gold-framed masterpieces of the dominant Western canon. When approaching the individual works in illusionary museum halls, the viewer discovers subjects from humorous to banal.

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Sebastian Mejia was born 1980 in Cali, Colombia. Beginning his early studies at the Universidad Javerina in Bogota, he graduated as Meisterschüler from the Hochschule für Bildende Künste in Dresden. Currently, Mejia is living between Düsseldorf and Colombia. His work has been widely shown in Europe and the United States and is internationally collected by both private and public institutions. Having completed the Artist-in-Residence Programme (Bronner-Residency) in Tel Aviv, Mejia also took part in the Lucas-Cranach Prize in 2015. In February 2017, Mejia will present new work at the Grosse Kunstaussstellung NRW in the Kunstpalast Düsseldorf and the KiT.

For images and more information about the artist, please contact the gallery.