

FOOD-WATER-LIFE/ LUCY+JORGE ORTA



Lucy + Jorge Orta, *Food-Water-Life* installation at the Tufts University Tisch Family Gallery.
Photographed by Alonso Nichols/Tufts University. © 2012 Trustees of Tufts College.

Medford, MA - Tufts University Art Gallery at the Shirley and Alex Aidekman Arts Center is proud to present the traveling exhibition *Food-Water-Life/Lucy+Jorge Orta*. This is the first comprehensive exhibition of work by Lucy+Jorge Orta available to American museums, organized by the Tufts University Art Gallery, touring nationally through 2015.

After its US premier at the Tufts University Art Gallery, *Food-Water-Life/Lucy+Jorge Orta* will go on to numerous venues across the United States: Zilkha Gallery, Davison Art Center, Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT) Jan. 22 to Mar. 3, 2012; Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University (Ithaca, NY) Jan. 25 to May 25, 2014; Ben Maltz Gallery, Otis College of Art and Design (Los Angeles, CA) Aug. 16 to Dec. 7, 2014; Richard E. Peeler Art Center, DePauw University (Greencastle, IN) Feb. 5 to May 7, 2015. If you are interested in hosting this exhibition, please contact Amy.Schlegel@tufts.edu. This exhibition was curated by Judith Hoos Fox and Ginger Gregg Duggan (c2 | curatorsquared) and organized by the Tufts University Art Gallery.

The sculptures, drawings, installations and video by this French wife-husband duo, Lucy+Jorge Orta, collectively explore major concerns that define the 21st century: biodiversity, environmental conditions, climate change and exchange among peoples. At the same time, this work embodies the philosophy that steers their pioneering art practice, 'the ethics of aesthetics.' As heirs to the practice of social sculpture, formulated by Joseph Beuys in the 1960s, the Ortas' works are relics of their own function—beguiling assemblages that are the platform for the preparation of food, mechanisms that actually purify water, and elements created for a 2007 expedition to Antarctica that are part of an effort to amend the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The works in this exhibition are metaphors-in-action, constructions that perform the tasks of which they are emblematic.

These humorous, jerrybuilt contraptions are obviously not the most efficient means to purify, prepare and transport food and water, or to launch a world-wide humanitarian effort, but in their ability to actually function, albeit, awkwardly and haltingly, they gain power as works of art created to move us to awareness and action. The artists have created a unique visual language through which they tackle the major global issues affecting our lives and the precarious position of this planet. As the Orta's artwork communicates widely to audiences beyond the field of contemporary art, it demonstrates the importance of art as a creative agent for awareness and change.

Working in partnership since 2005, Lucy+Jorge Orta create, produce, and assemble their artworks and large installations together with a team of artists, designers, architects, and craftspeople. They stage on-location workshops, ephemeral interventions, residencies, and master classes, which explore the crucial themes of the contemporary world: the community, autonomy, dwelling, migration, sustainable development, and recycling. Their work has been the focus of important survey exhibitions in major museums, including: the Barbican Art Gallery, London; Modern Art Museum, Paris; Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam; Hangar Bicocca, Milan; as well as the Venice, Havana, and Johannesburg Biennales.

Accompanying Publication: Lucy+Jorge Orta/*Food-Water-Life* was published in 2011 by Princeton Architectural Press with contributions from Judith Hoos Fox and Ginger Gregg Duggan (c2 | curatorsquared) Hou Hanru, Ellen Luptan, and Zoe Ryan, and is available for purchase for \$40 at the Tufts University Art Gallery or directly from www.papress.com; 192 Pages, 300 color illustrations.

TOUR ITINERARY:

Fall 2012

Tufts University Art Gallery, Medford, MA
September 6 to December 16, 2012

Winter 2013

Zilkha Gallery, Davison Art Center
Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT
January 22 to March 3, 2012

Winter-Spring 2014

Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
January 25 to May 25, 2014

Summer 2014

OPEN

Fall 2014

Ben Maltz Gallery
Otis College of Art & Design, Los Angeles, CA
September 27 to December 13, 2014

Winter-Spring 2015

Richard E. Peeler Art Center
DePauw University, Greencastle, IN
February 5 to May 7, 2015

Fall 2015

OPEN



Mexican Kitchen, 1997-2008, recycled Mexican gas cooker, steel structure, mirrors, 8 recycled fruit crates, 8 laminated Lambda photographs, various utensils, taps, 4 wheels, 78 3/4 x 71 x 23 1/2 in. Photography: Bertrand Huet.

GALLERY HOURS

Tuesday - Sunday 11 AM - 5 PM
Thursdays 11 AM - 8 PM

GALLERY CONTACT:

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