

Storefront for Art and Architecture

97 KENMARE STREET NEW YORK NY 10012 TEL 212 431 5795
www.storefrontnews.org

CONTACT:

Jinny Khanduja, Deputy Director

Patrick Jaojoco, Development & Communications Associate

press@storefrontnews.org or 212.431.5795

Storefront for Art and Architecture presents:

Ministry for All

Carla Juaçaba and Marcelo Cidade



Exhibition Dates: September 21st–December 14th, 2019

Social Media: #ministryforall @carlajuacaba @cidade @storefrontnyc

New York, NY - Storefront for Art and Architecture presents *Ministry for All*, a site-specific intervention by two Brazilian collaborators: architect Carla Juaçaba and artist Marcelo Cidade.

The exhibition is on view at Storefront's gallery space, located at 97 Kenmare Street, until December 14th, 2019.

About the Exhibition

Buildings are often positioned as beacons of progress and symbols of growth and power. Their foundations, dug solidly into the earth, aim to give shape to new visions for future social ideals and to frame the identities of the territories in which they are located.

Ministry for All takes its title from the monumental work of civic buildings by architect Oscar Niemeyer (1907-2012) that once stood as an emblem of social, political, and economic development in what would be Brazil's new capital, Brasilia. Built between 1956-1960, the city was laid out in an open plan by architect Lucio Costa (1902-1998) to be a modern utopia in which all aspects of life had a distinct space, and all buildings had an explicit agenda.

As the new seat of the nation, Brasilia's central district incorporated grandiose structures: a congressional house, a cathedral, a presidential residence, and the Esplanade of Ministries, which consists of a series of seventeen colossal concrete edifices that flank the Monumental Axis, the city's central avenue. While the Niemeyer/Costa plan for Brasilia erected formal structures imbued with a sense of stability, the composition and nature of the Ministries changes from one administration to another, and their reconfiguration is often used as a political tool by those holding the country's highest office. The physical presence of the structures remains constant, yet what occurs inside of them is perpetually in flux, ultimately shaping and influencing the social order.

Ministry for All pairs architect Carla Juaçaba (Rio de Janeiro, 1976) and artist Marcelo Cidade (São Paulo, 1979) in an indirect collaboration that exposes the physical infrastructures of Storefront's gallery space in order to comment on the social and political foundations of the built environment. This site-specific installation, created entirely with Storefront's existing infrastructural elements, undresses the gallery's iconic facade to acknowledge the theatricality and vulnerability of architecture.

Juaçaba's simple gesture of removing the facade's concrete panels reveals the inner workings of the building. Its cladding is no longer on view from the outside; instead, construction materials such as insulation foam and plywood boards are exposed. By rendering these infrastructural components visible, Juaçaba's intervention reflects upon the foundations that underlie systems of power. Cidade brings the concrete panels to the gallery's interior, rearranging them to create new spaces, forms, and interactions. This layered installation extrudes the facade inward and allows visitors to walk *through* it, providing a different reading of its panels now that they are no longer performing. The artist repurposes the gallery's protective shell, with its cracks, dirt marks, and graffiti, into a composition that alters the space, shifting the order of what we consider to be inside and outside, or public and private.

Acknowledging the limits of architecture can provide important lessons about how spaces come to be used differently from their stated intentions. Although exposing what buildings are made of might make them seem vulnerable, in recognizing their fragility we are reminded that it is the users who make them perform.

Together, Juaçaba and Cidade's collaboration serves as a conceptual and poetic critique on the resilience of architecture that ultimately asks a crucial question for the future of Brazil and other societies around the world: how do we build social and political systems that work for all?

About the Collaborators

Carla Juaçaba is a Rio de Janeiro-based architect with an office focusing on design practice and research for both public and private projects, including housing and cultural programs. Her design projects include the Atelier House, Rio Bonito House, Veranda House, and Santa Teresa House, along with exhibition design work for numerous exhibition. A notable recent project is Juaçaba's ephemeral Pavilion Humanidade 2012 for Rio+20, which was created in collaboration with theater director Bia Lessa. Juaçaba has lectured at Harvard University, Columbia University, and Academia di Architettura Mendrisio, among others. In 2013, Juaçaba won the first edition of the ArcVision Women and Architecture international prize, and in 2018, she was awarded the AREA Architectural Review Emerging Architecture Award. Juaçaba participated in the 2018 Venice Architecture Biennial, where she presented the project BALLAST, and was also commissioned to design a chapel for the Holy See Pavilion.

Marcelo Cidade was born in 1979 in São Paulo, where he currently lives and works. Cidade creates work that confronts social issues in the urban context, bringing signs and situations from the street into art spaces. He has a particular interest in the public space of cities and the technological and social implications of surveillance states. Cidade's work has been presented in numerous solo and group exhibitions, including at: Galeria Vermelho, São Paulo; Museu Brasileiro da Escultura e Ecologia, São Paulo; Galleria Continua, Italy; Kadist Art Foundation, San Francisco; Casa França-Brasil, Rio de Janeiro; Furini Arte Contemporanea, Rome; and Centro Cultural São Paulo. Cidade's works also feature in many public collections, such as Fundação Serralves; Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo; Museu de Arte de São Paulo; Tate Modern; Kadist Art Foundation; Museo Tamayo Arte Contemporaneo; and the Bronx Museum.

Building Cycles

Ministry for All is the second exhibition in *Building Cycles*, Storefront's year-long curatorial program that examines building as both a place and a process. Emphasizing infrastructure as a crucial step of construction, this exhibition conceptually questions architecture's foundations and links them to broader social infrastructures. *Ministry for All* follows the first exhibition in the cycle, *Aqui vive gente*, which engaged in observation and site analysis informed by community needs and desires.

BUILDING CYCLES

Members of the Press

Marcelo Cidade and Carla Juaçaba will be in New York and available for in-person comment between September 16th and September 22nd. If you would like to arrange an interview with the collaborators or cover *Ministry for All*, please contact press@storefrontnews.org.

About Storefront for Art and Architecture

Storefront for Art and Architecture advances innovative and critical ideas at the intersection of architecture, art, and design. Storefront's experimental programming provides alternative platforms for dialogue and collaboration focused on issues of the built environment and the future of our cities, territories, and public life. Since its founding in 1982, Storefront has presented the work of over one thousand architects and artists.

General Information

Storefront for Art and Architecture

Gallery Address: 97 Kenmare Street, New York, NY 10012

Phone: (212) 431-5795

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11 am - 6 pm

www.storefrontnews.org

Credits

Ministry for All by Carla Juaçaba and Marcelo Cidade. Graphic design by Estudio Campo. Presented by Storefront for Art and Architecture, 2019.

Presented by Storefront for Art and Architecture

José Esparza Chong Cuy, Executive Director and Chief Curator

Jinny Khanduja, Deputy Director

Jessica Kwok, Gallery and Operations Manager

Patrick Jaojoco, Development and Communications Associate

Iara Pimenta, Curatorial Fellow

Chialin Chou, Associate Curator of Archives

Interns and Volunteers: Kweku Addo-Atuah, Ramses Gonzalez, Hana Halilaj, Caroline Koh Smith, Ipek Kosova, Daniel Li, Adela Locsin, Eduardo Meneses, Brian Sing, Karen Wang

-

Graphic Design Assistance by Estudio Campo.

Support

Pro-bono support for this exhibition is provided by Front Inc. and Thornton Tomasetti.

Front **Thornton
Tomasetti**

Ministry for All is the second exhibition of Building Cycles, a new year-long public program that will be launched by Storefront for Art and Architecture in June 2019. Founding support of Building Cycles is generously provided by Linde-Griffith Construction Company and the Graham Foundation.



**Graham
Foundation**

Storefront's programming is made possible through general support from Arup; DS+R; F.J. Sciamè Construction Co., Inc.; KPF; ODA; Rockwell Group; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; and by Storefront's Board of Directors, members, and individual donors.



**NYC Cultural
Affairs**

Aerial view of Esplanada dos Ministérios em Brasília-DF. Photo by Ana Volpe/Agência Senado, collaged by Carla Juaçaba. Image courtesy of the artist.

###