

## **CRISTINA LUCAS –The Big Questions / Edges of the Globe (working title)**

The Cristina Lucas solo exhibition is organized in collaboration of the MUDAM with the OK.

**OK Center for Contemporary Art:** December 2<sup>nd</sup> , 2016 – February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**In collaboration with MUDAM Luxembourg:** October 1st 2016 – May 2017

Cristina Lucas (born in 1973 in Jaén, lives in Madrid) asks radical and critical questions about the reality of our lives today, while also engaging in an intense yet highly aesthetic manner with our world in these times of globalization.

She represents an artistic stance that takes very seriously the social responsibility of art as a means of emancipation and enlightenment. Lucas shows, for example, what a precious and fragile commodity the democratic achievements of the Enlightenment actually are in a film version of Eugene Delacroix's "Liberty Leading the People." In another work, a panel of flashing lights demonstrates what democracy means by displaying how voting rights have eventually been obtained by everyone all over the world, even women and indigenous peoples.

Lucas sets out to uncover what's really behind power structures: global issues, for example how our economy operates, how it came about in the first place, and how it has changed until today, are the subjects of her exacting analysis and the associated research. And when she does research, it's always on a global scale, delving deep into history and its epochal chapters.

How do people all over the world refer to money or sex colloquially, that is, not officially but in their everyday speech? How did we manage to replace gold as a stability factor with the stock market of all things—substituting market fluctuations for real value? Why do we still insist on accumulating goods sky-high? This is the question behind a photo series showing mountains of garbage, coffee, salt, etc. What capital looks like today is addressed by the artist not only in a paper on the writings of Karl Marx, but also in numerous works on immaterial transactions (the flow of money) and their values.

With the history of the bombings involving civilian casualties that began immediately after the construction of the first aircraft, Lucas draws a different picture of our global relations. There have been many Guernicas in this world.

The biggest picture of the world by far, the imprint of the Big Bang and the universe, is the subject of her longest video to date, "Trip through the Universe." But Lucas also yearns to see the world first-hand, following Magellan on the first circumnavigation of the globe in the 16th century.

Researching extensively and putting her whole self into her work, Lucas manages to create an irresistible visual pull, demonstrating that the task of art is not merely to seduce, but also to take responsibility for the world we live in. It's not about finding ready-made answers but about asking the right questions and launching the search for solutions.

## Selected works of the exhibition:



*FROM THE SKY DOWN, video stills, 2013 @ OK*



*LA LIBERTÉ RAISONNÉE, Video Still, 2009*



*SURPLUS VALUE, 2014, Video Installation*



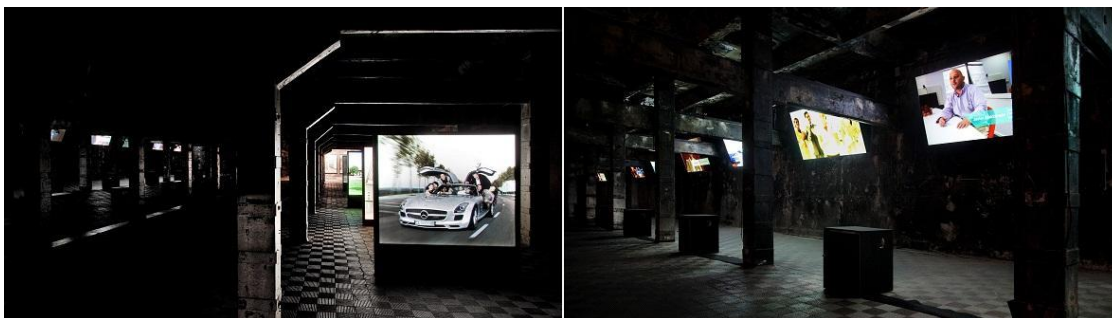
*THE UNENDING LIGHTNING, 2013-15, 3 Kanal Video Installation, Hauptausstellungsraum*

**CV:**

The artist Cristina Lucas (born 1973 in Jaén, lives in Madrid) has drawn attention to herself in Spain in recent years with her political installations, films and performances. Cristina Lucas' works often examine cultural, social and political power structures and the mechanisms they produce to limit individual freedom. In the process she produces highly effective images, often weaving them into iconoclastic narratives that draw their discursive power from banal, everyday contexts. Cristina Lucas studied at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and University of California, Irvine. Solo exhibitions devoted to her work have been shown, among others, at the Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo (CAAC), the Museo de Arte Contemporanea (MAC) in Santiago de Chile, the Museo Amparo Puebla, Mexico City, and the Stedelijk Museum Schiedam. Her works were most recently on view at the comprehensive solo exhibition at Matadero, Madrid. She has also participated in numerous international group shows, for example at the Guggenheim Bilbao, the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza in Madrid and the Moscow Museum of Modern Art (MMOMA).

**Cristina Lucas @ MUDAM 01.10.2016 – 05.2017:**

The exhibition will occupy the two galleries on the lower level and the space of the Foyer which is located between the two (800 m2 in all). It will focus on notions of capitalism and globalization in the (early) 21st century and more generally address issues such as conceptions of power, territory and economics, and history too, which are central to the interests of Cristina Lucas. The exhibition will consist of a series of recent works, including a new version of *Philosophical Capitalism*, which will include interviews with Luxembourg's major economic figures and a new film installation called *First Round* which starts with the expedition of the Portuguese navigator Magellan. In addition for the exhibition there will be further new installations and photographic works developed.



*ES CAPITAL, 2014, exhibition view Matadero Madrid*