

Ignacio Uriarte: *Line of Work*

January 17– March 13, 2013

Drawing Room

Opening Reception: Wednesday, January 16, 6–8pm

For further information and images, please contact
Molly Gross, *Communications Director*, The Drawing Center
212 219 2166 x119 | mgross@drawingcenter.org



Ignacio Uriarte,
Linealstrichstrukturverlauf,
2012, Permanent marker on
paper, One of thirty-three
drawings, each: 16 9/16 x 11
11/16 inches. Courtesy of the
artist and Nogueras
Blanchard, Barcelona.
Photograph by Simon Vogel.

December 3, 2012

New York – The Drawing Center presents the first solo museum exhibition in North America of work by Berlin-based artist, Ignacio Uriarte. Uriarte’s practice takes its inspiration from his former career in business administration, employing standard office supplies such as ballpoint pens, highlighters, and jotters, to create geometrically patterned line drawings, paper constructions, and animations. Moving from strict to whimsical, these works clarify his relationship to the early Conceptualists and demonstrate how he has been influenced by the seriality and self-sufficiency of their formalism. Preceded by a long history of artists whose creative practice existed in parallel with other jobs, Uriarte’s art similarly looks at the ways in which the information, skills, working conditions, and materials encountered in the workplace can become a source of influence and artistic inspiration. This exhibition is curated by Joanna Kleinberg Romanow, Assistant Curator.

Uriarte’s unique approach has resulted in a diverse body of drawing, at turns bold and subtle, that converts the repetitious nature of office work into vertiginous monochromes, geometric abstractions, and color studies. Quotidian office activities like speaking on a conference call while doodling on a notepad often inspire profound, artistic gestures. For instance, in *BIC Transitions* (2010), Uriarte documents the act of scribbling, using disposable BIC pens to create dramatic colored ink fields on sixteen A4 sized sheets of paper. The drawing originates with four standard colors (black, blue, red and green)—the varieties suitable for office use—which the artist mixes via a system of thirds to form a vibrant palette of intersecting orbs. What Uriarte accomplishes with a utilitarian instrument are discrete movements that amount to works with monumental presence.

This exhibition will also include a new dolby-surround recording of the twelve main letters of a German typewriter (ASDFGHJKLÖ) read in a prayer-like mumble by Blixa Bargeld, the front man for the indie rock band, Einstürzende Neubauten. The vocal recitation of fricative letter-hammering grants the obsolete typing machine a prominent place within an era of technological innovation. Shown together, Uriarte's optically mesmerizing compositions and audio works present the prescient dialogue between sound and image.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ignacio Uriarte (b. 1972, Krefeld, Germany) lives and works in Berlin. He studied Business Administration at Europäische Wirtschaftsakademie in Madrid, Spain, and at Berufsakademie in Mannheim, Germany, from 1992 to 1995, and worked for major corporations including Siemens, Canon, Interlub, and Agilent Technologies. From 1999 to 2001, Uriarte studied Audiovisual Arts at the Centro de Artes Audiovisuales in Guadalajara, Mexico, prior to becoming a full-time artist. Recent solo exhibitions have taken place at Centre d'Art la Panera, Lleida, Spain (2012); Sala Rekalde, Bilbao, Spain (2011); Casa del Lago, Mexico City, Mexico (2011); Kunstverein Arnsberg, Germany (2010); and Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León, Spain (2008). His work can be found in the collections of Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León, Colección Jumex, La Caixa, and Fonds Régional D'Art Contemporain de Lorraine, among others.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

An exhibition walkthrough will be led by the artist on Thursday, January 17th at 6:30pm.

PUBLICATION

To accompany *Ignacio Uriarte: Line of Work*, The Drawing Center will produce an edition in the *Drawing Papers* series that will include an essay by Joanna Kleinberg Romanow, Assistant Curator and images of the exhibited works.

CREDITS

Ignacio Uriarte: *Line of work* is made possible in part by Acción Cultural Española (AC/E). Additional support is provided by Nathalie and Charles De Gunzburg, Daniel Romanow, Gladstone Family Foundation, John Romanow, an anonymous donor, and Martina Yamin.

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ABOUT THE DRAWING CENTER

The Drawing Center is the only not-for-profit fine arts institution in the country to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established in 1977 to provide opportunities for emerging and under-recognized artists; to demonstrate the significance and diversity of drawings throughout history; and to stimulate public dialogue on issues of art and culture.

HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday 12pm–6pm, Thursday, 12pm–8pm.

The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

FACEBOOK: [The Drawing Center](#)

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TUMBLR: [the-drawing-center.tumblr.com](#)

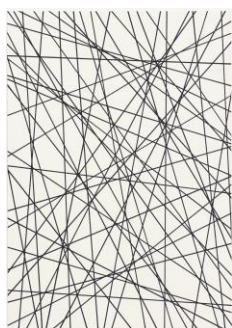
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Images Available for Reproduction

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Ignacio Uriarte, *Linealstrichstrukturverlauf*, 2012, Permanent marker on paper, One of thirty-three drawings, each: 16 9/16 x 11 11/16 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Nogueras Blanchard, Barcelona. Photograph by Simon Vogel.



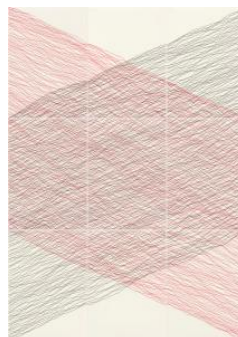
Ignacio Uriarte, *ASDFGHJKLÖ*, 2012, Ink jet poster and audio soundtrack, 51 3/16 x 37 7/16 inches, Audio duration: 32:28 min. Installation view of *Arbeitsrhythmus*, Figge von Rosen Galerie, Berlin. Courtesy of the artist and Nogueras Blanchard, Barcelona. Photograph by Simon Vogel.



Ignacio Uriarte, *XL* (detail), 2009, Eighty black-and-white 35mm slides, Continuous loop. Courtesy of the artist and Nogueras Blanchard, Barcelona. Photograph by Simon Vogel.



Ignacio Uriarte, *BIC Transitions*, 2010, BIC pen on paper, Sixteen drawings, each: 11 13/16 x 16 9/16 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Nogueras Blanchard, Barcelona. Photograph by Simon Vogel.



Ignacio Uriarte, *Strong Upper and Downer*, 2012. Typewriter ink on paper, Nine drawings, each: 23 1/2 x 16 9/16 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Nogueras Blanchard, Barcelona. Photograph by Simon Vogel.



Ignacio Uriarte, *Blue Wrist Suite*, 2012. Ballpoint ink on paper, One of four drawings, each: 27 9/16 x 19 11/16 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Nogueras Blanchard, Barcelona. Photograph by Simon Vogel.