

# FRANCISCO-FERNANDO GRANADOS

## CO-RESPOND-DANCE-VERSION II Publication – Exhibition – Performance

Centre des arts actuels Skol

November 5th – December 12th, 2020

### Project Description

In response to the security measures imposed by COVID-19, Granados's initial plan for an installation project has shifted to become mobile and accessible; it is now comprised of an artist book (distributed through the gallery and by mail), and poetic and movement-based performances by guest collaborators k.g. Guttman and Kama La Mackerel. The book will include compositions from the 'letters' series. Oscillating between the alphabetic and the epistolary, each 'letter' is part of an ongoing body of work currently consisting of more than 300 drawings that aim to synthesize a broad range of abstract compositional strategies.

Conceptually, this second version of the project responds to the state of emergency created by the pandemic by taking clues from two aesthetic methodologies. The first is use of mail art for political work by artists resisting dictatorships in Latin America during the 20th century. The second is a French feminine literary practice, in which known aristocratic women (Margot de Valois, La Grande Mademoiselle, Madame de Pompadour, etc.) would have their personal correspondences published. Fascinated by these writings and by their intimate nature made public, Granados inhabits this form critically, posing the question of what it would mean to turn abstraction into an everyday language.

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Through a range of media that extends from drawing and writing to performance and installation, **Francisco-Fernando Granados** uses abstraction as a conceptual strategy to challenge perceptions regarding the stability of identity categories. Born in the midst of the Guatemalan Civil War, his experience of coming to Canada as a refugee informs the aesthetics and politics of his practice. His work develops from the intersection of traditional formal training in painting and printmaking, studies in cultural theory, early activism with newcomer youth communities, and working through artist-run culture.

Granados has maintained a near-daily drawing practice since 2016. From this non-figurative body of work, he has crafted the idea of minor abstraction (abstraction minoritaire) as a way to guide untranslatable compositional impulses away from Modernist claims of autonomy. Forms of minor abstraction emphasize ephemeral materials, site-specific approaches, and non-art contexts. They seek to infuse non-objective visual vocabularies within open-ended politics informed by the artist's queer and refugee experiences.

## BIO

**Francisco-Fernando Granados** is a Toronto-based artist. His multidisciplinary critical practice spans across performance, installation, cultural theory, digital media, public art, and community-based projects. He has presented work in galleries, museums, theatres, artist-run centres and non-traditional sites since 2005. These venues include the Art Gallery of Ontario, Mercer Union, Art Gallery of York University, Doris McCarthy Gallery, Blackwood Gallery, Gallery TPW, Trinity Square Video, Images Festival, Nuit Blanche, Harbourfront Centre, Sur Gallery (Toronto), Vancouver Art Gallery, LIVE, VIVO Media Arts Centre (Vancouver), Darling Foundry, MAI – Montreal arts interculturels, Fofa Gallery (Montreal), University of Western Ontario (London), Queens University (Kingston), Neutral Ground (Regina), Third Space (St. John) Hessel Museum of Art (NY), Defibrillator Gallery (Chicago), Voices Breaking Boundaries (Houston) Ex Teresa Arte Actual (Mexico City), Kulturhuset (Stockholm), and Theatre Academy at the University of the Arts (Helsinki).

He has curated exhibitions, performance art programs, and screenings for 221A Artist Run Centre, LIVE (Vancouver), FADO Performance Art Centre, Xpace Cultural Centre, and Pleasure Dome (Toronto). As a member of the 7a\*11d International Performance Festival Collective, he has been involved in the organization of the largest performance art festival in Canada since 2012.

His writing has been published in exhibition catalogues, magazines, art journals, online platforms and books including FUSE, KAPSULA, Canadian Theatre Review, and PAJ: A Journal of Performance and Art. Writing about his work has been published in TOPIA: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies and C Magazine. Awards and honours include Emerging Artist Grants from the Toronto and Ontario Arts Councils, a Projects to Visual Artists grant from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Governor General's Silver Medal for academic achievement upon graduating from Emily Carr University in 2010, and being named as one of Canada's 30 Under 30 by BLOUIN ARTINFO in 2014. He completed a Masters of Visual Studies at the University of Toronto in 2012, and is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Art at OCAD University.