



# Yoshua Okón

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# Yoshua Okón—cv

Born Mexico City, 1970

## EDUCATION

MFA, UCLA, Los Angeles, USA.

BFA, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada.

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 Yoshua Okón: 2007-2010, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, USA.
- 2009 Chile, Galería Gabriela Mistral, Santiago, Chile.  
Ventanilla Única, Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil, Mexico City, Mexico.  
Hypnosis, in collaboration with Raymond Pettibon. Armory Center for the Arts, Los Angeles, USA.  
Canned Laughter, Viafarini DOCVA, Fabbrica del Vapore, Milan, Italy.
- 2008 SUBTITLE, Lothringer 13 - Städtische Kunsthalle München, Munich, Germany.  
MAVI, Galería Revolver, Lima, Peru.
- 2007 Bocanegra, The Project, New York, USA.
- 2006 Saldo a Favor, Galería Espacio Mínimo, Madrid, Spain.  
Gaza Stripper, Herzeliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Herzeliya, Israel.
- 2005 Bocanegra. Galleria Francesca Kaufmann, Milan, Italy.  
Lago Bolsena, The Project, New York, USA
- 2004 Yoshua Okon, Sala de Arte Público Siqueiros, Mexico City, Mexico.  
HCI, Galería Enrique Guerrero, Mexico City, Mexico.  
Shoot, The Project, Los Angeles, USA.
- 2003 Art Statements, Art Basel Miami, Galleria Francesca Kaufmann, Miami, USA.  
Cockfight, Galleria Francesca Kaufmann, Milan, Italy.
- 2002 Oríllese a la Orilla, Art & Public, Geneva, Switzerland.  
Yoshua Okon, Galería Enrique Guerrero, Mexico City, Mexico.  
New Decor, Black Dragon Society, Los Angeles, USA.
- 2000 Cockfight, Modern Culture, New York, USA.  
Oríllese a la Orilla, Centro de la Imagen, Mexico City, Mexico.  
Lo Mejor de lo Mejor, La Panadería, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 1998 Rise & Fall, Brasilica, Vienna, Austria.
- 1997 KOBLENZ, La Panadería, Mexico City, Mexico.  
Beautiful Fluffy Stylish Hairy Butts, Chorus, Minneapolis, USA.  
A Propósito, in collaboration with Miguel Calderón. La Panadería, Mexico City, Mexico.

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 En cada instante, ruptura, Sala de Arte Público Siqueiros, Mexico City, Mexico.  
Proyecto Juárez, Carrillo Gil Museum, Mexico City, Mexico.  
Crossing, Paco de las Artes, Sao Paulo, Brazil.  
Arsenal, Baró Galería, Sao Paulo, Brazil.  
La Frontera: the cultural impact of Mexican migration, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, USA  
The Mole's Horizon, Palais des Beaux Arts. Brussels, Belgium.  
The Moving Image part two: from scan to screen, pixel to projection. Orange County Museum, Orange County, USA.  
I don't know whether to laugh or cry, London Museum, Ontario, Canada.  
Noise – Sfeir -Semler Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon.

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- 2009 Manimal, National Center for Contemporary Art in association with the International University of Moscow, Moscow, Russia.  
O riso e a melancolia, Galeria Iberê Camargo, Porto Alegre, Brazil.  
Tragicomedia, Cajasol y Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo, Sevilla, Spain.  
Yoshua Okon + Barry Johnston, N.T.B.R., Los Angeles, USA.
- 2008 Art Wrestling, Art Perform, Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami, USA.  
Amateurs, CCA Wattis, San Francisco, USA.  
White Russians, HDTs, California Biennial, High Desert, USA.  
Escultura Social, Museo Alameda, San Antonio, USA.  
Laughing in a Foreign Language, Hayward Gallery, London, England.  
Laugh Track, YUM21C, Brussels Biennial Off program, Brussels, Belgium.  
Electioneering, Fort Worth Contemporary Arts, Texas, USA.  
The Station, Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami, EUA.
- 2007 Luz y Fuerza del Centro, Charro Negro, Guadalajara, Mexico.  
Mercosur Biennial, Porto Alegre, Brazil.  
Eventos Sociales, GAM, Mexico City, Mexico.  
Escultura Social, MCA, Chicago, USA.  
Era de la Discrepancia. Arte y Cultura Visual en México 1968-1997. MUCA, Mexico City, Mexico.  
Fine Arts Museum, Houston, USA. Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada.  
Malba, Buenos Aires, Argentina.  
The Believers, Mass Moca, North Adams, USA.  
Black Sphinx, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, USA.
- 2006 Coyotería, Staatsgalerie, Stuttgart, Germany.  
Diálogos Fronterizos, Palacio de Congresos, Madrid, Spain.  
Don't Missbehave, SCAPE- Biennial of Art in Public Space, Christchurch, New Zealand.  
Neo Con, Apex Art, New York, USA and British Academy, Rome, Italy.  
Ruby Satellite, Hyde Park Center, Chicago and California Museum of Photography, Riverside, USA.  
Los Angeles/Mexico: Complexities & Heterogeneity, Jumex Collection, Mexico City, Mexico.  
Blessed Are The Merciful, Feigen Contemporary, New York, USA.  
Próximamente..., Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2005 Day Labor, PS1 MOMA, New York, USA.  
Pantagruel Syndrome, Torino Triennale, Castello di Rivoli, Torino, Italy.  
America Tropical, Centre Culturel du Mexique. Paris, France.  
Surveying the Border, Getty Center, Los Angeles, USA.  
Oracle of Truth, Aeroplastics, Brussels, Belgium.  
SCAR, Parkeergarage De Appelaar, Haarlem, Holland.  
Boosts in the Shell (The Pursued), DeBond, Bruges, Belgium.  
Monuments for the USA, CCA Wattis, San Francisco, USA.  
Human Nature, Pump House Gallery, London, England.  
Register the Distance, Borusan Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2004 Adaptive Behaviour, New Museum, New York, USA.  
Fishing in International Waters, Blanton Museum, Austin, USA.  
Don't Call It Performance, Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain and Museo del Barrio, New York, USA.

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- 2003 Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey.  
First ICP International Triennial of Contemporary Photography, International Center of Photography, New York, USA.  
Terror Chic, Spruth/Magers Gallery, Munich, Germany.  
This Is Not a Movie, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA.  
The Virgin Show, The Wrong Gallery, New York, USA.  
Female Turbulence, Aeroplastics, Brussels, Belgium.
- 2002 Big Sur, The Project, Los Angeles, USA.  
Mexico City: an Exhibition about the Exchange Rates of Bodies and Values, PS1 MoMA, Long Island, USA and Kunstwerke, Berlin, Germany.  
8 x 2, Minnesota Center for Photography, Minneapolis, USA.  
Use your illusion, Vedanta Gallery, Chicago, USA.  
California Biennial, Orange County Museum of Art, Irvine, USA.  
Pictures of You, Americas Society, New York, USA.  
ALIBIS, Centre Culturel du Mexique, Paris, France and Witte de Witt, Rotterdam, Holland.
- 2001 Pay attentif[on] Please, Museo d'Arte Provincia di Nuoro, Italy.  
ZONING, The Project, New York, USA.  
Políticas de la Diferencia, Arte Iberoamericano fin de Siglo, Generalitat Valenciana, Spain,  
Pinacoteca del Estado, Río de Janeiro, Brazil, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes,  
Buenos Aires, Argentina, Museo Sofía Iber, Caracas, Venezuela.  
Sala de Recuperación, Museo Carrillo Gil, Mexico City, Mexico.  
City of Fictions, Mercer Union, Toronto, Canada.  
BURIED MIRRORS, Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, USA.
- 2000 ACTION VIDEOS, Artists Space, New York, USA.  
c/o la ciudad, SAW Gallery, Ottawa, and Blackwood Gallery, Toronto, Canada.  
EXTRAMUROS, La Habana, Cuba.
- 1999 Sous la grisaille de Mexico, Passage de Retz, Paris, France and Capella de l'antic Hospital de la santa creu, Barcelona, Spain.  
Paradas Continuas, Museo Carrillo Gil, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 1998 MEXELENTÉ, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, USA.  
OKON CALDERON OCAMPO, Galerie Philomene Magers, Cologne, Germany.  
Vidéos d'art du Mexique et des Etats-Unis, Musée d'art Contemporain de Lyon, Lyon, France.  
CAMBIO, 526W 26<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, USA.

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## SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Blanton Museum Collection, Austin, Texas  
Colección Fundación ARCO, Madrid, Spain  
Colección Lopez Rocha, Guadalajara, Mexico  
Collection Pierre Huber, Ginebra, Switzerland  
CIFO, Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation, Miami, Florida  
Fondazione Morra Greco, Naples, Italy  
Colección Jumex, Mexico City, Mexico  
Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, California  
Colección Teófilo Cohen, Mexico City, Mexico  
Colección Juan Carlos Verme. Lima, Peru  
Tate Modern, London, England

## AWARDS / GRANTS

Fideicomiso para la cultura México/USA, Fundación Rockefeller, CONACULTA y Fundación Bancomer  
Jóvenes Creadores, FONCA  
Fulbright  
Sistema Nacional de Creadores, FONCA

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Advisor in New Genres, National Found for Culture, Mexico  
Artist Council Member, Hammer Museum. Los Angeles, California  
Advisory Committee Member, CIFO (Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation), Miami, Florida  
Artist Council Member, SOMA, Mexico City, Mexico

## SELECTED SOLO ARTIST TALKS

2010

The School of The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois  
Northwestern University, Art Department, Chicago, Illinois  
MIS, Museu da Imagem e do Som, Sao Paulo, Brazil  
Instituto Cervantes, Sao Paulo, Brazil  
CIA, Centro de Investigaciones Artísticas, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, California  
Foro ENTRE, Oaxaca, Mexico

## SELECTED CONFERENCES

2010

The School-Makers. Art Basel Conversations- Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami Beach, Florida  
Foro Proyecto Juárez: Sesiones de Diálogo y Relexión. Carrillo Gil Museum, Mexico City, Mexico  
Yoshua Okón. Oaxaca Book Fair, Oaxaca, Mexico  
Roundtable discussion between artists from Audience as Subject and Yoshua Okon. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, California

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## *Canned Laughter, 2009*

*Canned Laughter* was created as part of an invitation to Ciudad Juarez in which artists were asked to create works based on their experience in the city. The piece focused on Ciudad Juarez as a maquiladora site and on its role within the global context. It is a detailed construction of Bergson, a fictitious factory that produces canned laughter for sitcoms. For it, dozens of ex-maquiladora workers were hired both as part of the research process (maquiladoras are highly secretive and it is very hard to know what happens inside) and as actors. *Canned Laughter* alludes to mechanized processes and to slavery in the age of globalization as well as to the impossibility to translate and reproduce true emotions through technological means.



*Canned Laughter*, installation view, Via Farini, Milan Italy; *Canned Laughter* installation detail

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*Canned Laughter*, light jet c-print, 39 x 54.6 inches each

Video installation

3 channels

Three projections, two robe racks, table with shelves, five monitors, cans and lamps

Duration: 14:24 minutes, loop

Dimensions: variable

Photograph

Diptych

Light jet c-print

Dimensions: 39 x 54.6 inches, each

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*White Russians, 2008*

White Russians is a video installation based on a performance done in collaboration with the Akien family. Invited to create a site specific work in the High Desert, Okón decided to work with the residents of Wonder Valley, a remote desert area with scattered houses on five-acre lots, dirt roads and no running water.

The piece involves the participation of a group of local residents whom, along with the Akien family, are presented as one big fictional family, which spectators come and visit throughout the weekend. Visitors are greeted with “White Russians,” Diana Akien’s favorite drink. The actions that take place inside the home (singing of Western songs, a fight where the artist and the guests get kicked-out, etc.) happen every 20 minutes and are the result of collaborative rehearsals Okón had with the family. In the end it is hard for spectators to distinguish when the family is acting and when they are being themselves. The piece underscores the fears and fantasies urban dwellers often have about rural people who live in the “middle of nowhere.”

Four cameras were installed in the living room so that “spectators” became actors, not allowing them to play a passive role. The visit to the home not only emphasizes the voyeuristic gaze of the spectator or art-goer, but also reverts it: the family looks back.



Top to bottom: *White Russians*, light jet c-print, 8.8 x 11.7 inches; *White Russians*, performance view, High Desert Test Sites, Wonder Valley, USA



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## Video Installation

4 channels

Cube covered with wood paneling  
containing:

four 40-inch LCD screens embedded  
onto each wall, speakers and three  
benches

Dimensions: 12 x 12 feet

Duration: 8:51 minutes, loop

## Photograph

Light jet c-print

Dimensions: 8.8 x 11.7 inches

*White Russians*, installation view, Yerba Buena Center  
for the Arts, San Francisco

