

Guillermo Kuitca: *Diarios* November 3–December 9, 2012



Guillermo Kuitca, *Diario (25 May – 20 October 2005)*, Mixed media on paper, 47 1/4 inches diameter x 1 5/8 inches deep. Collection of the Artist. Courtesy Sperone Westwater, New York.

Main Gallery

Opening Reception: Friday, November 2, 6–8pm

For further information and images, please contact
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September 12, 2012

Guillermo Kuitca: Diarios will be the first exhibition in the United States of this series of works made by the Argentine artist between 2005 and the present. This presentation will also mark the first Main Gallery exhibition in The Drawing Center's renewed and expanded building. Since 1994, Kuitca has taken discarded canvases, stretched them over an abandoned table from his parents' garden, and then spent periods of time ranging from three to six months marking their surfaces with intentional and accidental doodles, drawings, and notations. These drawing activities occur in arbitrary zones around the table, and the completion of each *Diario* is governed by time rather than a formal consideration. The *Diarios*, as the artist calls them, are the most transparently personal works in his oeuvre, as they gather residue like phone numbers, titles of paintings, email addresses, blank spots where books sat, lists, and collaged elements that record the ebb and flow of life inside and outside the studio. To complement the exhibition, a video of the most current *Diario* being made in Kuitca's Buenos Aires studio will be projected.

The *Diarios* comprise an independent body of work that allows Kuitca to introduce the process of drawing and writing to his painted canvases. For Kuitca, painting must be corrupted to remain a relevant practice; in these works, drawing joins other influences – from cartography to dramaturgy – to keep painting alive. Each *Diario* evolves according to the impulses that enter the mind, motivate the hand, and surface through mark-making. Although Kuitca is not interested in keeping a traditional diary, he cites Andy Warhol's diaries and time capsules as inspirational to his personal practice. The canvases, made atop a central worktable in Kuitca's studio, record all of the artist's normal activity, resulting in a final work that is a hybrid of intentionality and chance. Remnants of

previous ideas and compositions are preserved, yet the resulting tondos depict something new and separate from his original concept. The *Diarios*, over time, become narrative paintings without plots, or abstractions without balanced compositions.

This exhibition is curated by Brett Littman, Executive Director, and will travel to the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI from February 22 – May 26, 2013 and then to MCA Denver, where it will be on view from June 21 - September 15, 2013.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Guillermo Kuitca was born on January 22, 1961 in the Belgrano neighborhood of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Beginning his artistic training with surrealist painter Ahuva Szlimowicz, Kuitca saw himself as a painter from early on. His first exhibition was at the age of thirteen at Galeria Lirolay in Buenos Aires and he has continued a productive path over nearly four decades. In 1985, he represented Argentina in the XVIII Sao Paulo Biennial, and began to receive significant international attention when he was selected for a 1991 *Projects* show at The Museum of Modern Art in New York, in addition to his prominent participation in 1992 at Documenta IX. Notable Kuitca surveys occurred at the Instituto de Arte Moderno (IVAM) in Valencia, Spain in 1993, and the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, OH, which traveled to the Center for the Fine Arts in Miami, and the Whitechapel Art Gallery in London in 1994-1995. Other major solo exhibitions include *Guillermo Kuitca: Oeuvres récentes* at Fondation Cartier, Paris in 2000 and *Guillermo Kuitca: Obras (1982-2002)* at Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, which traveled to the Museo de Arte Latinoamerica (MALBA) in Buenos Aires in 2003. Kuitca represented Argentina in the 52nd International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy and was included in Robert Storr's concurrent exhibition *Think with the Senses—Feel with the Mind, Art in the Present Tense* in 2007. Most recently his work was the subject of the traveling retrospective, *Guillermo Kuitca: Everything, Paintings and Works on Paper, 1980–2008*, from 2009–11 at Miami Art Museum, FL, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC. He currently lives and works in Buenos Aires.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Saturday November 3, 2pm

Walk-through of *Guillermo Kuitca: Diarios* with artist Guillermo Kuitca and curator Brett Littman.

PUBLICATION

In conjunction with *Guillermo Kuitca: Diarios* The Drawing Center will produce a *Drawing Papers* paperback catalogue that will include an introduction by Brett Littman, exhibition curator and Executive Director, and an essay by German novelist Daniel Kehlmann. The publication will be approximately 80 pages with 19 color plates of works in the exhibition.

CREDITS

Guillermo Kuitca: Diarios and its accompanying publication are made possible in part by Bettina and Donald Bryant, Jr., Charles Van Campenhout and Ristead Keating, and an anonymous donor.

The Mario Gradowczyk Public Program Series supports programming related to the institution's Latin American exhibitions and is funded by Felisa Gradowczyk, Diego Gradowczyk and Isabella Hutchinson.

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, 12pm–6pm, Thursday, 12pm–8pm, and Friday–Sunday, 12pm–6pm (closed Mondays and Tuesdays). The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

FACEBOOK: [The Drawing Center](#)

TWITTER: twitter.com/drawingcenter

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Images Available for Reproduction

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GK1: Guillermo Kuitca, *Diario* (25 May – 20 October 2005), Mixed media on paper, 47 1/4 inches diameter x 1 5/8 inches deep. Collection of the Artist. Courtesy Sperone Westwater, New York.



GK2: Guillermo Kuitca, *Diario* (20 October 2005 – 14 March 2006). Mixed media on canvas, 47 1/4 inches diameter x 1 5/8 inches deep. Collection of the Artist. Courtesy Sperone Westwater, New York.



GK3: Guillermo Kuitca, *Diario* (14 March – 20 July 2006). Mixed media on canvas, 47 1/4 inches diameter x 1 5/8 inches deep. Collection of the Artist. Courtesy Sperone Westwater, New York.



GK5: Guillermo Kuitca, *Diario* (14 December 2006 – 17 August 2007). Mixed media on canvas, 47 1/4 inches diameter x 1 5/8 inches deep. Collection of the Artist. Courtesy Sperone Westwater, New York.



GK8: Guillermo Kuitca, *Diario* (1 July – 16 October 2008). Mixed media on paper, 47 1/4 inches diameter x 1 5/8 inches deep. Collection of the Artist. Courtesy Sperone Westwater, New York.



GK15: Guillermo Kuitca, *Diario* (25 November 2010 – 12 April 2011). Mixed media on canvas, 47 1/4 inches diameter x 1 5/8 inches deep. Collection of the Artist. Courtesy Sperone Westwater, New York.