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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



Abraham Cruzvillegas

Autoconcepción

September 17 – October 22, 2016

Press preview with the artist: Friday, September 16, 11:00 am

Opening reception: Saturday, September 17, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Gallery hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Regen Projects

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Regen Projects is pleased to present an exhibition of new sculptures by Mexican artist **Abraham Cruzvillegas**.

Cruzvillegas' practice deals with history and the construction of the self in reference to economic, social, political, and historical conditions. Employing various means to create open-ended strategies of production and reception, Cruzvillegas gives objects a new life and context, generating shifts in meaning and interpretation, meanwhile demonstrating how concepts and relationships can be constantly inverted and transformed. He explores economies of the makeshift, hand-made, and the recycled, and often incorporates site and elements of a particular location within the context of a work, exhibition, or project, creating a connection between Mexico City and the location in which the artist is working. His practice examines the way in which one constructs or reconstructs histories from information, illustrating how ideas are often a dialogic conflation of many people, places, and times. Improvisation and assemblage are core aspects of his practice, which is informed by, and connected to ideas of survival economics, labor economics, and the ready-made.

For his second exhibition at the gallery, Cruzvillegas brings together a selection of new sculptures that incorporate site-specific materials, both man-made and organic. Referencing his own personal narrative as well as Southern California's car culture, the sculptures are comprised of the back seats of cars Cruzvillegas has used in his life, onto which are affixed apparatuses containing planters with botanical specimens sourced from Southern California. Further locating the works within the social fabric of the city in which they exist, each sculpture will emit weather

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reports, cultural reportage, and music from local radio stations transmitted through radios hanging from the sculpture.

The exhibition's title, *Autoconciencia*, presents a pun or play on words that literally describes the sculpture as what it is, a 'car with song.' However this term also fits into the methodology and conceptual practice associated with the artist's ongoing *Autoconstrucción* project, inspired by the resourceful and ingenious collaborative building techniques employed by the inhabitants of Colonia Ajusco, his childhood neighborhood in Mexico City. While the back seat references the site of adolescent lovemaking and sexual experimentation, the sculptures on view can also be seen as a sort of self-portrait told through the objects and materials that serve as a summary of Cruzvillegas' work and life.

Abraham Cruzvillegas (b. 1968 Mexico City) lives and works in Mexico City.

His work has been exhibited in solo exhibitions worldwide, including *Empty Lot*, Tate Modern, London, UK (2015); *MALI in situ*, Museo de arte de Lima, Lima, Peru (2015); *Autoconstrucción*, Museo Jumex, Mexico City, Mexico and Museo Amparo, Puebla, Mexico (2014); *The Autoconstrucción Suites*, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany (2014) and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN (2013); Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Oaxaca, Mexico (2005); Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX (2003); Museo Universitario de Ciencias y Arte, Mexico City, Mexico (2001).

Cruzvillegas participated in the 12th Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (2015); 12th Havana Biennial, Havana, Cuba (2015); Shanghai Biennial, Shanghai, China (2012); dOCUMENTA 13, Kassel, Germany (2012); 12th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey (2012); Gwangju Biennial, Gwangju, South Korea (2012); 10th Havana Biennial, Havana, Cuba (2009); and the 50th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy (2003).

He has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Altadis Contemporary Art Prize, 2006. He was the artist in residence at the Atelier Calder, 2005; Brownstone Foundation, 2006-07; Civitella Ranieri Foundation, 2007; Smithsonian Institution's Artist Research Fellowship program, 2008; a joint residency at the Center for Contemporary Arts and Cove Park also in 2008; Wattis Institute of the California College for Arts in 2009, and was the grant recipient of the Deutscher Akademischer Ausrauch (DAAD) in 2010-2011. Cruzvillegas has recently been announced as the winner of the 5th Yanghyun Prize.

An opening reception for the artist will be held on Saturday, September 17, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

For all press inquiries, and to RSVP to the press preview, please contact Ben Thornborough at +1 310 276 5424 or benthornborough@regenprojects.com.

For all other inquiries, please contact Jennifer Loh, Lindsay Charwood, or Isha Welsh at Regen Projects.

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The Back Seat

A '69

Ford Galaxie

Won't move

Better get a taxi

My dad's truck

Is fucked up again

It costs a pretty buck

And a check he must send

To the Güero de la Palma

Who wakes up at eleven

Only if they get him out of bed

And if not, doesn't know who you are even

Nor his sons the güeritos

Who fix up the ride

And eat beans that are well fried

Later in the afternoon

El Tocayo fixed it

But then it broke down

When I ask how he did it

He answered with a frown

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They changed the oil

They switch the sparkplug anyway

They tune it up with joy

And test it for days and days

The radiator was changed

And the tires went flat

The accumulator's acting strange

If you push it you fall on your back

But it worked so well

When we made love

Deep in the back seat

But it worked so well

When we made love

Deep in the back seat