

# the goma

## **JOSÉ LUIS CORTÉS-SANTANDER**

*Heavy boxes perform quick waltzes and jigs*

19/09/2013 - 08/11/2013

José Luis Cortés-Santander's second exhibition at The Goma borrows its inspiration from the event that took place in 1966 in Florence when the river Arno overflowed its banks. As a result, millions of books and manuscripts were lost as well as thousands of works of art belonging to both public and private collections.

In building a hypothetical system of relationships between a set of historical and personal events, and through the myth of coded information, the artist reveals a premonition of an impending catastrophe that will take place in a culturally important city, underscoring the vulnerable quality of the objects in a collection. Rather than considering it an announcement, this presentiment casts an ironic gaze on the artist's supposed capacity to capture truths that are not within his grasp.

A series of the artist's personal gathers have been manipulated, diminishing or destroying their innate properties and then exhibiting them on conventional supports with a heightened objectual quality. The intent of the paint that covers the collection of magazines and stickers is to take over the information expounded therein, suggesting the impossibility of reading, a constant in the artist's praxis. At once, in the video-installation *Evocación 01* the screen is partially cancelled out with writing in Bacon's cipher (a 17th century binary code system), preventing a clear vision of a recompilation of videos on the flood.

Cortés-Santander's work can be located within what he calls "the confines of art practice", questioning systems of production without looking for objects that necessarily generate knowledge, alluding to impossible events which are nevertheless still potential for the person who generates them.

Jose Luis Cortés-Santander (1980, Mexico) studied Fine Arts at Pratt Institute (USA) and UDLA (Mexico). He has been a recipient of Young Artists Fellowship FONCA (Mexico) in 2009 and 2011, the Fellowship of the Fundación / Colección Jumex, and the Fulbright Scholarship. He teaches art at various universities in Mexico, where he has coordinated various self-managed projects such as La Galería del Comercio and LAALvaca. This past year his work has been seen together with Alejandro Almanza's at Kunsthalle Galapagos (New York) and in Proyectos Monclova (Mexico City) in the exhibition *A trip to the moon*, curated by Fabiola Iza.