



Sariev Gallery - Plovdiv

presents:

IGNACIO URIARTE

Letters and Numbers

solo exhibition

15 March 2011 – 29 April 2011

Opening: 15 March 2011

The artist will be present at the opening

Ignacio Uriarte exhibits in Bulgaria at the invitation of the Sariev Gallery, with the support of the Embassy of Spain in Bulgaria

In March and April, the Sariev Gallery of Plovdiv will unveil a solo exhibition by the Spanish-born, Berlin-based artist Ignacio Uriarte. Uriarte will be in Plovdiv and Sofia to meet and talk with his audiences.

Ignacio Uriarte's now eminent artistic career started not in academia, but from humble origins. In his article on Uriarte's first exhibition in Germany ("9 to 5", Feinkost Gallery, Berlin, 2009) Aaron Moulton notes: „*Ignacio began his professional path in business administration, but soon realized the opportunities for a career in the fine arts offered to him by office life and changed tracks. Somehow, he has brought the office with him.*”

Here is what *Frieze*, the leading magazine for contemporary art and culture, has to say about Uriarte's exhibition *The History of the Typewriter recited by Michael Winslow* (Nogueras Blanchard Gallery, Barcelona, 2010): „*The Spanish artist has employed standard office supplies such as bios, highlighters and jotters, for example, to create his monochrome series, animations and paper constructions. The ubiquitous spreadsheet tool Microsoft Excel, perhaps soon facing its own obsolescence, has been used to create a number of digital prints. Such works oscillate between bureaucratic delight, the futility of the nine-to-five grind and the serial work of Sol LeWitt.*”

Says Ignacio of his work: “*My starting point are the creative moments we all experience in office routines, however small their ‘artistic’ value might be, such as when we doodle on a piece of paper while talking on the phone. Aesthetically, my work has clear references to the conceptual and minimalist art of the 1960s and 70s. During this period, the dematerialization of art objects in the art world and the substitution of products by services in the business world went almost hand in hand. You could even say that there was a mutual fetishization which led to the use of neon light and archival material as artistic media and the preference for minimalist art in office decoration.*”

The exhibition *Letters and Numbers* by Ignacio Uriarte at the Sariev Gallery of Plovdiv offers an analysis of the two types of sign systems – the alphabetical and the digital – ordinarily used in offices around the world. The works examine the presence and absence of both systems in space (A4 sheets) and time (60/1). Space and time are the subject of analysis, too, their function as media and markers distorted.

During the exhibition, the Sariev Gallery will host the premiere of Uriarte's video animation *Arabic Numerals* (10:00, 2011), in which the mathematical processes of addition and subtraction are represented with Arabic numerals. A second theme in the video is time – measured not with the conventional system in which 60 seconds equal a minute, but with one in which 1000 seconds equal 10 minutes. The numerals are hand-drawn and based on the Helvetica font.

The fonts installed in 90% of MACs and PCs worldwide as of June 2010 are seven prints on Hahnemühle Photograg paper which take their inspiration from the seven most popular fonts for MAC and PC as of June 2010. The artist reveals the character of each font, by arranging the letters from each of the seven fonts in mantra-like compositions. The work was shown at the Perth Institute for Contemporary Art in Australia.

Office paper is another theme in the exhibition *Letters and Numbers* and is used by Uriarte as a sculptural medium in the installation *Copied Document* and the *décollage Blocs*.

Copied Document puts a digital phenomenon back in the physical world, where it once belonged. The work borrows the pattern in which windows stack on top of each other on a computer screen to allow us to see them all at the same time. *Copied Document* makes ironic comments about the words “desktop” and “wallpaper”. It was shown at the i8 Gallery in Island.

The installation *Blocs* is a décollage in which 13 note blocs have been ripped apart. The note blocs are arranged in a row, with the lines of the ripping going from one block to the next. The installation was shown at the Vierter Stock space for projects in Berlin and the art-o-rama in Marseille.

The only “real” drawing in the exhibition *Letters and Numbers* by Ignacio Uriarte is a frame drawn on an empty sheet of paper – a play on the interconnectedness of the 2D and 3D worlds, the real and the imaginary document. A work that might well be the key to the whole exhibition.

IGNACIO URIARTE was born in 1972 in Krefeld, Germany. From 1992 to 1997, he studied business administration in Madrid and Manheim. Between 1997 and 2002 he worked for corporations such as Siemens, Canon, Interlub and Agilent Technologies in Germany, Spain and Mexico. Parallel to his administrative work, he also studied audiovisual arts in the Centro de Artes Audiovisuales in Guadalajara, Mexico. Since 2003, he has devoted himself to what he calls „office art”. He lives and works in Berlin, since 2007.

In 2011, his exhibition *The History of the Typewriter recited by Michael Winslow* (Nogueras Blanchard Gallery, Barcelona, 2010) won the GAC Award for best exhibition. He is also the recipient of the Crazy Curators Award from the Bratislava Biennial and the "Born 2", International Art Award of the Galería Casaborne of Antequera, Spain.

Ignacio Uriarte's work has been shown at the Vierter Stock, the Temporäre Kunsthalle Berlin, the Feinkost Gallery and the Kunstverein Arnsberg in Germany; the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts and the General Store for Contemporary Art in Australia; the Proje4L / Museum of Contemporary Art in Istanbul; the Hangar and Nogueras Blanchard Galleries in Barcelona; as well as in France, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Argentina, the United States, Japan and Singapore.

Full artist CV in the attached file.

LETTERS AND NUMBERS includes the following WORKS:

Arabic Numerals, video, 10:00, 2011

The fonts installed in 90% of MACs and PCs worldwide as of June 2010, 7 prints on Hahnemühle Photoraag paper, 2010

Copied Document, paper installation for wall, changing sizes, 2010

Blocs, décollage, 2010

Untitled, drawing, 2011

SARIEV GALLERY /+/ SKLADA

17 March, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Office Art, a conversation with Ignacio Uriarte (Spain/Germany)

Part of the exhibition “Warehoused Art” organized by Sariev Gallery /+/ Sklada

Sklada, Sofia, 11 G. Benkovski Str., fl. 3-4