



The series of photographs, videos and installations will be shown from February 18th until May 2014.

CA2M presents the exhibition “The witness” by Mexican artist Teresa Margolles

- The title refers to the responsibility of those who see in the collective quest of truth
- Her work “The promise”, focuses on Ciudad Juárez and reflects on unmet promises of social wellbeing
- Her work is interested in how reality affects and determines the lives of individuals

XX.Jan.14.- CA2M Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo de la Comunidad de Madrid presents the exhibition “The witness” by Mexican artist Teresa Margolles. Curated by María Inés Rodríguez, the show highlights the urgency and the need to develop specific solidarity actions in contexts where the impact of drug trafficking, job insecurity and the economic crisis is more powerful, such as Ciudad Juárez.

For CA2M, Margolles features a series of photographs, sound pieces, video pieces and installations, carried out in the last years resulting from a thorough and meticulous research process that began a decade ago in Ciudad Juárez. In each of the rooms and revolving around the work *The Promise* (2012), this exhibition tries to create a space to state the testimonies of a specific social reality through the artist’s look.

An (always) unmet promise





The promise 2011 is built using the real and fragmented remains of a house in Ciudad Juárez, one of the many that were sold after the wave of violence that unleashed in the region in the last decade and that emptied full neighborhoods. The house, demolished, broken, crushed and now transformed into a horizontal sculpture, will scatter around the exhibition's space thanks to volunteers that will move its fragments until they fill the room. This blunt and poetic reflection on unmet expectations of personal and collective happiness makes us face a community that remains to be built.

Around loss (2009 — 2013) is a video piece that is part of the *The promise's* documentation files. The video shows testimonies gathered in the last three years from different Ciudad Juárez citizens coming from different social backgrounds. These citizens are the ones who talk about their personal experience with the houses they lost, abandoned or bought.

The witness

The works that we find when walking through this exhibition and that go with *The Promise* allow to draft an outline to put the main piece into the economic, social and political context of a particular city and region: This building won't be demolished (2011), is a series of 30 color photographs that show abandoned and ruined houses that witness emptiness after being deserted by their inhabitants, who were forced to emigrate.

In PM (2012) Teresa Margolles compiles each one of the covers published by this popular and yellow press newspaper in 2010, one of the most violent years in the city. Finally, *The witness* (2013), which gives its name to the show, is represented by the image of a tree that stands up as the silent observant of what's around him.

Teresa Margolles' work gives rise to many questions: in a context such as Ciudad Juárez' how can we define who is the witness, is it the city, its citizens, the viewer? As we know, a witness is that who can give testimony of something he saw, something he heard. A testimony is therefore both a tale and a quest, and thus it is founded on a real event that has passed and that is marked by subjectivity.





The witness makes the person who sees face their responsibility, their role in writing history, and even more in the collective quest of the truth. Presented works open a space to subjectivity of men and women who do not write the official history but who are the ones who have to live through it.

The exhibition catalogue includes texts by curator María Inés Rodríguez; curator Juan A. Gaitán; architect expert in territory and politics Eyal Weizman; art critic Óscar Gardea, and CA2M director Ferran Barenblit.

The artist

Teresa Margolles (Culiacán, México, 1963) is one of the most outstanding Mexican artists of her generation. She has had solo exhibitions in the Museum für Moderne Kunst in Frankfurt/Main, the Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen in Düsseldorf, the Frac in Lorraine and the Kunstmuseum in Berna. In 2009 she represented México in the Venice Biennale.

