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DAVID HORVITZ

The Hour of The Star

21 October - 31 December, 2023
de boer (Los Angeles)

Opening Reception: Saturday, October 21 (5 - 9pm)

de boer (Los Angeles) is pleased to present *The Hour of The Star*, a solo exhibition by Los Angeles-based David Horvitz, his first solo with the gallery. Horvitz engages with concepts of faith, astrology, consumption, and circulation in this photographic project.

TEXT by DAVID HORVITZ

In the City of Angels, the stars are hidden out of view above a blanket of light pollution. What is lost is not only our relationship to the night and our body's circadian rhythms; to the starlight itself, and the capacity of our attention to these subtleties, a diversity of varying colors and temperatures and luminosities. Or to the intergalactic and timescales beyond our own lives and the societies and civilizations we inhabit.

What is also lost is a way of telling stories, and a way of reading stories, and the characters of these stories. Like the story of the crow sent by Apollo to fetch a cup of water that is distracted by a tree full of ripe figs. The crow is then banished for eternity to the stars as penance for its neglected duties. There are forty-two animals in the eighty-eight star constellations recognized by the International Astronomical Union. Most of these are from the Greek and Mesopotamian constellations (the dolphin, the swan, the lion...). Others were inventions by European astronomers in later centuries (the fox, the fly, the crane...).

Hidden somewhere in a cosmological landscape, in forests of light no longer visible, these animals are hiding.

I hole punched these animal shapes one-by-one into forty-two one-dollar bills. They are small drawings that become visible when held to a light source: a minor defacement, yet the value is intact. The Treasury states that if more than 50% of a note is identifiable as United States currency its value has not been compromised.

I drove through the streets of LA, sometimes at night and sometimes in the day, stopping at street food vendors. They were mostly taco trucks and taco stands. I was sometimes alone, sometimes with friends. At each location I used one of the constellation dollars and purchased something. I wanted to put the dollars into circulation to be passed from hand to hand. I then wandered to the next spot, sometimes with no planned route, as if mapping the city through tacos.

I titled the artwork 'Constellatory Insertions Into Angelic Orbits' as a reference to one of Cildo Meireles' 'Insertions Into Ideological Circuits,' banknotes stamped with messages and put back into circulation during the time of Brazil's military dictatorship.

Maybe, when verifying the authenticity of the banknote, when it is held up to the sky, as if orienting them into position, these animals emerge in a moment of distraction.

In the city of Angels, where are the stars?

ABOUT DAVID HORVITZ

Eschewing categorization, Horvitz's expansive, nomadic body of work traverses the forms of photographs, artist books, performances, the Internet, mail art, sound, rubber stamps, gastronomy, and natural environments. His work examines questions of distance between places, people and time in order to test the possibilities of appropriating, undermining or even erasing these distances. Using image, text and objects, his works circulate and operate independently of himself, penetrating ever more effectively the intimate sphere. When encountering his works- in the postal system, libraries, or the airport lost-and-found services- our attention to the infinitesimal, inherent loopholes and alternative logics, and the imaginary comes to the fore. Like lullabies impressed upon our minds, Horvitz deploys art as both objects of contemplation and as viral or systemic tools to affect change on a personal scale. Horvitz makes fictions that insert themselves surreptitiously into the real. His work was exhibited in venues such as: High Line Art, New York; MoMA, New York; New Museum, New York; SF MOMA,

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San Francisco; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; HangarBicocca, Milan; Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary; Fotomuseum Winterthur; Albertinum, SDK, Dresden; Wende Museum, Los Angeles; La Criée centre d'art contemporaine, Rennes; S.M.A.K, Gent; Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen; MOCAM, Museum of Contemporary Art, Krakow; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Musée d'Art Contemporain Avignon; Crac Alsace, Altkirsch; Brooklyn Museum. Horvitz's work is included in the permanent collection of the Fonds d'Art contemporain, Paris; SFMOMA, San Francisco; Belkin Collection, Vancouver; FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, France; Nomis Foundation, Rome; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem; MoMA, New York; Le Silo- Collection Billarant, Paris; Fotomuseum Winterthur; Fonds regional's d'art contemporain de Bretagne; Nouveau Musée National de Monaco; Château de Rochechouart, Musée d'art contemporain de la Haute-Vienne; Collection Lafayette Anticipations - Fonds de dotation Famille Moulin

Here is the list of the 42 taco trucks (and stands), the one fruit truck, the one tejuino vendor, and Rafael who sells elote next to Horvitz's studio:

1. Mariscos Jalisco, Olympic Blvd.
2. Mariscos 4 Vientos, Olympic Blvd.
3. Tacos de Canasta El Abuelo, Olympic Blvd.
4. Tejuino Fresco Estilo Guadalajara, Olympic Blvd. and Rio Vista Ave.
5. El Rey De La Fruta, Arlington Ave.
6. Leo's Tacos, Venice Blvd. and La Brea Blvd.
7. Tacos Tamix, Pico Blvd.
8. Tacos Como En El D.F., Washington Blvd.
9. Los Chicos, Arlington Ave.
10. Tacos Guadalajara, Adams Blvd.
11. Taquitos Tami, Slauson Ave.
12. Tacos El Cubilete, Slauson Ave.
13. King Taco, 14th St.
14. Antojitos Poblanos, Culver Boulevard.
15. San Miguel Archangel, Venice Blvd.
16. Birrieria Becerrito, Venice Blvd.
17. El Primo Tacos LA, Lincoln Blvd.
18. Ricos Tacos Naomi, Obama Blvd.
19. Beto's Tacos, Jefferson Blvd.
20. El Primo 449, Adams Blvd.
21. Quianos Tacos, Washington Blvd. and Fairfax Ave.
22. Tacos Ciudad De Mexico, Venice Blvd.
23. Tacos 5 Y 10, Hauser Blvd.
24. El Chato, Olympic Blvd. and La Brea Blvd.
25. Charlies Tacos, York Boulevard
26. Rico Antojitos Mexicanos Los Gemelos, Venice Blvd.
27. Tacos "Verito", Vermont Ave.
28. Tacos El Alacran, Vermont Ave.
29. El Flamin Taco, Sunset Blvd.
30. Taco Zone, Alvarado St.
31. Tacos Y Birria La Unica, Olympic Blvd.
32. Mariscos El Colima, Olympic Blvd.
33. Carnitas El Momo, Fairmount St.
34. Los Originales Tacos Arabes De Puebla, Olympic Blvd.
35. Mariscos El Faro, Figueroa St.
36. Los Dorados LA, Whittier Blvd.
37. Mochomitos Asador, Whittier Blvd.
38. Tire Shop Taqueria, Avalon Blvd.
39. Tacos Mar Vista, Venice Blvd.
40. Ceviche Cameron, Venice Blvd.
41. Rafael who sells elotes, Washington Blvd.
42. Angel's Tijuana Tacos, Eagle Rock Boulevard.