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# *Poulpe*

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## Yoshua Okón

March 17 - April 25, 2012



Yoshua Okón, *Octopus*, 2011

***Poulpe*** is the first solo show of Mexican artist **Yoshua Okón** in France. The title refers to his most recent work presented in October at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles. This final installation will be confronted by another of Okón's major works, ***Bocanegra***, which cynically displays staged scenarios meant to target fascist social orders still present today in Mexico.

***Poulpe*** is a reinterpretation of the Guatemalan civil war that ravaged the country in the 1980s, re-enacted here in a Home Depot parking lot in Los Angeles. The actors and extras in the video are all members of the "Los Angeles Maya Community" who fought during the civil war before emigrating illegally to the United States where they are consequently sold and traded

for working labor in the same Home Depot parking lot where the video is filmed.

***Octopus*** refers to the coined nickname of the American company United Fruit, an influential economic juggernaut in Guatemala, controlling 10% of the wealth of the country and playing, through its links with the CIA, an important but quite controversial role in the political capital of the state.

***Bocanegra***, completed in 2007, is a video installation divided into four parts, evoking the journey of a group of 3rd Reich aficionados in Mexico, uniting in the presentation a conglomerate of Nazi fetishists and idolaters of this movement.

The installation presents a series of orchestrated scenarios in which a comedic reading of a Nazi ideology takes place, subtly dismantling the ideology and meant to simultaneously target the monstrosity and absurdity of the topic.

The exhibition opens Saturday, March 17 at 6:00PM.