

mor  
charpentier

# Désirs

|  
Carlos Motta

September 5- October 31 2015  
FROM TUESDAY TO SATURDAY, 11AM—7PM  
8, RUE SAINT-CLAUDE, PARIS 3ÈME



**Carlos Motta's** multi-disciplinary artistic practice studies and documents the social conditions and political struggles of sexual and gender minority communities in an attempt to produce projects of self-representation that challenge dominant and normative discourses of sex and gender. As a historian of untold narratives and an archivist of repressed histories, Motta is committed to an in depth research-based practice that manifests in a variety of media including video, installation, web-based projects, live/discursive events, sculpture and drawing.

**Carlos Motta: Désirs**, the artist's first solo exhibition at **mor charpentier**, presents two new works: **Deseos / تاباتغر**, Motta's latest single-channel video and **La puissance et la jouissance**, an installation of drawings newly conceived for the gallery. Both pieces explore the historical representation of

unconventional sexual desires as "indecent" and expose the institutional apparatuses that have produced such representations.

**La puissance et la jouissance** is a room-size installation composed of twenty miniature letterpress printed drawings installed behind the walls and made visible only by looking through with magnifying lenses. The drawings are based on a variety of historical images that depict unconventional sexual practices such as scenes of bestiality, hard gay sex practices, representations of female sexuality, Roman mythological figures engaged in sex, and religious iconography that has been appropriated by gay culture. The piece invites the viewer to experience the ways in which certain desires were historically constructed as unnatural and consequently rendered marginal and invisible.

The piece's title references Copi's cartoon *La puissance ou la jouissance* made for the Front Homosexuel d'Action Révolutionnaire's *Rapport contre la normalité* from 1971.

The video **Deseos / شاپ غر** (32 min.) reveals the ways in which medicine, law, religion, and cultural tradition shaped dominant discourses of the gendered and sexual body through the narration of two parallel stories. The first is that of Martina, who lived in Colombia during the late colonial period of the early 19th century and who prosecuted Martina in 1803 for being a "hermaphrodite". The second is the life of Nour, who lived in Beirut during the late Ottoman Empire and who was required to marry her female lover's brother after her mother found them making love. The video presents an imaginary correspondence between these women. Separated by geography, culture, and religion they both faced the consequences of engaging in same sex relations and defying gender norms.

**Deseos / شاپ غر** was commissioned by Council (Paris) and co-produced by Hordaland Kunstsenter (Bergen), MALBA—Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires, Röda Sten Konsthall (Gothenburg), Galeria Filomena Soares (Lisbon) and mor charpentier (Paris).

The work of **Carlos Motta** (born Bogotá, Colombia, 1978) has been presented internationally in venues such as Tate Modern, London; Jeu de Paume, Paris; New Museum, Guggenheim Museum and MoMA/PSI, New York; Institute of Contemporary

Art, Philadelphia; Museo de Arte del Banco de la República, Bogotá; Museu Serralves, Porto; Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona; National Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens; Secession, Vienna; Castello di Rivoli, Turin; CCS Bard Hessel Museum of Art, Annandale-on-Hudson; San Francisco Art Institute; Hebbel am Ufer, Berlin; Witte de With, Rotterdam; Sala de Arte Público Siqueiros, Mexico City; X Lyon Biennale; X Gwangju Biennale and Gothenburg International Biennale of Contemporary Art; International Film Festival Rotterdam; Toronto International Film Festival; among many other venues around the world. Röda Sten Konsthall in Gothenburg presented a survey exhibition of Carlos Motta's work in 2015.

He will also have solo exhibitions at the PinchukArtCentre, Kiev (2015) and Hordaland Kunstsenter, Bergen; MALBA-Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires; Mercer Union, Toronto; and PPOW Gallery, New York (2016). Carlos Motta won the Main Prize—Future Generation Art Prize of the PinchukArtCentre in Kiev (2014) and the Hoteles Catalonia Award for best work at LOOP/Screen in Barcelona (2013).

He was named a Guggenheim Foundation Fellow (2008), and received grants from Art Matters (2008), NYSCA (2010), Creative Capital Foundation and the Kindle Project (2012). He is part of the faculty at Parsons The New School of Design, New York.