



ARTIST'S STATEMENT, March 25, 2015

The Beast and the Sovereign

As artists in the exhibition *La bestia y el soberano/The Beast and the Sovereign*, we express our indignation and disgust for the current situation at the MACBA concerning said exhibition and the course of events up to the present moment. We condemn as authoritarian and regressive the way in which the MACBA director, the consortium and the managing committee have operated.

At this moment, Thursday March 26th, we as artists are communicating on how to respond. We are researching the possibilities of removing our work, and if not that, what other actions can be taken in protest of the course of events. Our protest is directed not only at the firing of the curators, but, more broadly and more fundamentally, at the way in which our work and this exhibition has become a pawn in a power play that reveals a complete lack of democracy in the institute, a cynical hypocrisy as regards to the content of the work and exhibitions the institute displays, and the bankruptcy of the integrity and credibility of this museum.

Specifically we object to the following:

- The acceptance of cessation of Chief Curator Valentín Roma and the Head of Public Programs Paul B. Preciado by the Executive Committee of MACBA is an acceptance of the argument put forward by the Director of the Museum Bartomeu Marí and consequently an endorsement of the censorship of freedom of cultural expression that triggered the crisis.
- The Executive Committee of the MACBA does not represent the plurality of civil society, nor does it cover all actors in the cultural sector, which put into question its decision to dismiss the curators of the show.
- We reject the instrumentalization that the governing body and Executive Committee of MACBA are conducting in a process of re-democratization of the institution opened by the crisis provoked by Mr. Bartomeu Marí.
- We express our disagreement with the statement issued by MACBA's workers suggesting the existence of interferences during production process by the curatorial team. The artists did not perceive any irregularities.

Artists included in this exhibition: Efrén Álvarez, Angela Bonadies and Juan José Olavarría, Peggy Buth, Martin Dammann, Ines Doujak and John Barker, Juan Downey, Edgar Endress, Oier Etxeberria, León Ferrari, Eiko Grimberg, Masist Gül (presented by Banu Cenneto?lu and Philippine Hoegen), Ghasem Hajizadeh, Jan Peter Hammer, Geumhyung Jeong, Glenda León, Julia Montilla, Rabih Mroué, Ocaña, Genesis Breyer P-Orridge, Prabhakar Pachpute, Mary Reid Kelley, Jorge Ribalta, Hans Scheirl, Wu Tsang, Stefanos Tsivopoulos, Viktor Vorobyev & Yelena Vorobyeva, and Sergio Zevallos.

* Image support of Dan Perjovschi