

BORDERMATES

WE LOOK FOR LUGARES INUSUALES • TRABAJAMOS CON UNREACHED PEOPLE • TODOS COMEMOS SO WE USE FOOD

BRIEF HISTORY AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Renato Ornelas and I met in February, 2002 when the Toronto based artist collective Instant Coffee invited us to submit videos for an event at Garash Galería in Mexico City. During my short visit to Mexico City from Cincinnati, Renato and I began to collaborate in an organic fashion. We invented a series of physical *Render Games* to play while waiting for the computer to process information.

In the summer of 2002, I moved to Mexico City and in respect to our work as a North American/ Central American collaborative team, Renato and I coined ourselves, "Bordermates". We presented *Render Games* at the longstanding artist-run space, La Panadería, about a month before its closing. For eight years, La Panaderia had provided a stimulating, yet casual environment for young artists to gather and exhibit. Inspired by the legacy of La Panaderia and the collective practices of Instant Coffee that had brought us together, we decided to seek a new space for young artists to work in.

Sábados de Chyg's

On a regular basis, we frequented the restaurant, Chyg's, that was conveniently located on the first floor of our apartment building. This "fonda" restaurant served economical Mexican three course meals known as "comida corrida" (fast food). As regular customers, Renato and I quickly became good friends with the owner of the locale.

Chyg's was open from Monday to Friday, catering to the masses of people that work in the surrounding business district. On weekends only residents and random city dwellers populate this area. Because of this circumstance we began to organize bi-monthly events at Chyg's on Saturdays, making use of the commercial facility on a day that it had normally been closed. For each event, we invited five to seven participants (one which volunteered to cook) to install works that either responded to the physical characteristics of the restaurant or to the coinciding themes of food, temporality, and social co-existence. Those invited were emerging artists, filmmakers, musicians, designers, etc., from Mexico and abroad.

These events, known as "Sábados de Chyg's" (Saturdays at Chyg's), were facilitated out of generosity and exchange. In exchange for entrusting us with their facilities, we paid Chyg's for the preparation of several a la carte items that we sold inexpensively along with beverages. The money earned was used to cover production expenses of participants'

works, and, when possible, to compensate James Young, an artist friend and American ex-pat, for his continual help in the kitchen. The participant who volunteered to cook was provided with assistance and ingredients to prepare a meal for about 60 people. This food was served for free to our visiting public, allowing for an experience in which the visitor ate, participated, and observed mutually. We organized 4 events at Chyg's.

Sábados 2004 - 2006

In 2004 while owner of Chyg's sold the restaurant and moved to the beach, Sábados de Chyg's received a US-Mexico Fund For Culture project grant. Because the new owners were not interested in continuing the previous exchange, we decided to coordinate the events in distinct locations, primarily in Mexico City, with food always a core element. At this time we invited Paulina Lasa, artist and co-editor of the zine *Volumen*, to join the collaboration. Her past experience organizing events and working with young artists would prove instrumental to the project. Others have joined with roles ranging from graphic designer to resident dj.

The events were coordinated in locales ranging from a parking lot in the downtown area of Mexico City to Daimler-Chrysler's corporate headquarters in Santa Fe (Mexico City's prime business district) to the Sundown Salon in Los Angeles.

Bridging the gap between artistic proposals and the public has been an involved process. To gain the permission and trust of the owners of each location, we made repeated visits, presented documentation of previous events and ultimately convinced them that there was something to gain in the collaboration. In a location like the parking lot, we had to pay an hourly rate for the amount of spaces occupied.

Although we normally spend a few months in preparation for an event, there is always an element of risk staging one-day happenings. It has been interesting to witness how the artists, people involved with the locale and passerbies work together to make everything possible.

In 2005, we received a grant from UNESCO's International Fund for the Promotion of Culture, which helped us to produce events from 2005-2006 in Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Los Angeles and Guadalajara.

—Kelly Coats

CURRICULUM VITAE

BORDERMATES

Renato Ornelas (MX), Kelly Coats (US), Paulina Lasa (MX), James Young (MX/US),
Yvonne Dávalos (MX), Alex Dorfsman (MX), Gabriela Jauregui (MX), Rene Peñaloza (MX)

Mexico City:

Tokio 84 Int. 11, Col. Juárez
06600
D.F. México

(52-1-55) 5553-4075
sr.ornelas@gmail.com
paulina.lasa@gmail.com

Los Angeles:

536 1/2 S. Coronado St.,
Los Angeles, CA 90057
U.S.A.

(213)249-8265
kelly.coats1@gmail.com

www.bordermates.org

“SÁBADOS 2004-2006” EVENTS

2006 **Sábados #15: El Gran Concurso de Pasteles**, Pastelería Santa Teresita, Guadalajara, México, March 19. With cakes by: **Team 1)** Mauricio Hurtado, Jan López Newton, Roberto Zepeda; **Team 2)** Octavio Abundez, Luis Alfonso Villalobos, Adriana Torres, Gabriel Rico, Pablo Lecuanda; **Team 3)** María Elena Larios, Lorena Peña, Emanuel Tovar, Rubén Méndez, Cynthia Gutiérrez; **Team 4)** Edgar Cobian, Cristian Franco, Julian Jaime, Felipe Manzano, Susana Rodríguez; **Team 5)** Songmi Huff, Renato Ornelas and Paulina Lasa.

Sábados #14, Maxikiosko Ilusión, Buenos Aires, AR, February 11. Featuring works by Karen Azoulay, Cynthia Kampelmacher, Gabriel Baggio, Gastón Pérsico, Cecilia Szalkowicz, Kelly Coats and Paulina Lasa. In collaboration with Señora Rufi.

2005 **Sábados #13: Sábados Memories**, Art 2102, Los Angeles, CA, August 6. Retrospective exhibit featuring documentation, works and ephemera from previous events.

Sábados #12: Viaje Todo Pagado/ Kansas City Tropical, El Mirador, Glorieta Metro Insurgentes, Mexico City, July 2. With the collaboration of Los Miniplugs. Encapsulated repetition of the event listed below.

Sábados #11: Viaje Todo Pagado/ Kansas City Tropical, Grand Arts, Kansas City, MO, April 22-23. As part of the programming for *Mash-Up*, in Collaboration with Yoshua Okon, with works by: Marcus Randolph, Dulce Chacón, Misael Torres, Daniela Domínguez, Gisselle Elías, Regina Pozo, Alex Dorfsman, Pedro “Zulu” González, Gabriel Bátiz, Adriana Riquer, Karen Azoulay, Olivia Martin Moore, Anna Sew Hoy, Annaí Ramos, Gabriel Acevedo, Diego Pérez, Juan Pablo Bastarrachea, Jerónimo Hagerman, Xavier Rodríguez, Emilio Valdés, and Chicos de Hoy.

2004 **Sábados #10: Giant Margarita and Video Taco Convention**, Sundown Salon, Los Angeles, CA, November 28. In collaboration of Fritz Haeg.

Sábados #9: BLING BLING, Pasaguero Bar, Mexico City, October 22. Bordermates Fundraiser in collaboration with twenty-four artists who made videos, animations and/or films about the subject of money.

Sábados #8: A.S.A.P., DaimlerChrysler Services Building, Floors 13 and 14, Mexico City, September 22. With the participation of Heike Arzapalo, GL Mutante, Yoshua Okón, María Alós, Nicolás Dumit Estévez, Richard Wearn, Gabriela Galván, Sal V. Ricalde, Dulce Chacón, Cacahuates Japoneses, Katri Walker and DaimlerChrysler Employees.

Sábados #7: A Slice of a Paradise Lost, Nutrifrutas Juice Bar, Mexico City, June 5. As part of the programming for Localismos, with the collaboration of: Hector Dávila, Giselle Elías, Samanta Elizalde, Amanda Cárcamo, Pedro “Zulu” González and the Nutrifrutas Staff.

Sábados #6, Public Parking Lot (Corner of Revillagigedo and Victoria), Mexico City, May 22. With works by Douglas Rada, Renato Ornelas, Gabriel Acevedo V., Manon Amen, Pablo Lavalley, Schirin Kretschmann, Isham Randolph, René Peñaloza, Joaquín Segura, Mauricio Limón and Máximo González.

Sábados #5, El Arrabal Restaurant and Cantina, Mexico City, March the 13th. With works by Jerónimo Hagerman, Paulina Lasa, Sophie Nys, Gabriel Acevedo, Alex Dorfsman, Rodrigo Tovar, La Chica de Fuego and Alvaro Verduzco.

CURRICULUM VITAE CONTINUED

“SABADOS DE CHYGS” EVENTS

- 2003 **Sábados de Chyg's #4**, Chyg's Restaurant, Mexico City, January 25. With works by Jerónimo Hagerman, Luis G. Hernández, Iván Krassoievitch, Richard Mozska and Adriana Riquer.
- 2002 **Sábados de Chyg's #3**, Chyg's Restaurant, Mexico City, November 15. With works by Gabriel Bátiz, Son Electrodomésticos, Janet Belloto, Paulina del Paso, Claudia Prado and Javier Velázquez.
- Sábados de Chyg's #2**, Chyg's Restaurant, Mexico City, September 28. With the participation of Yibrán Asuad, Galia Eibenschutz, James Young, Marcus Brooks, Ilián González and André Krassoievitch.
- Sábados de Chyg's #1**, Chyg's Restaurant, Mexico City, August 17. With the works by Kelly Coats, Instant Coffee, Gabriel Acevedo, Tom “Texas” Holmes, Lola Sosa and Daniela Edburg.

AWARDS & GRANTS

- 2005 International Fund for the Promotion of Culture, UNESCO
- 2004 Cultural Contact, Rockefeller Foundation / FONCA, US-Mexico Fund for Culture Grant

CONFERENCES

- Symposium: “Identity and collective processes”, 2005, Museo Arte Carrillo Gil, Mexico City
- Symposium: “Divergent Strategies,” 2004, University of the Americas, Puebla, Mexico
- Round Table Discussion: “Collective Strategies,” 2005, Escuela Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico City

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- González Rosas, Blanca. “Colectivos Contemporáneos.” *El Proceso* March 20, 2005:62.
- Jaúregui, Gabriela. “Contemporary Mexican Art, El arte mexicano se viste de fiesta.” *LAPIZ* #209 (2005).
- López, Beatriz. “Bodermates.” *Código 06140*, #24 (2005): 46-47.
- Peréa, Bárbara. “Sin Desviarte: Un Domingo entre Semana.” *DONDE IR*, #127 (2004): 103.
- Noreña, Aurora. “Intervenciones al espacio corporativo.” *ARTE AL DIA News* #16 (2004): 6.
- Cordero, Patricia. “Intervienen Artistas oficinas de Chrysler.” *Periódico Reforma*, 24 Sept 2004, Cultura, 2C.
- Teets, Jennifer. “On the brink of an Emerging Establishment or an Emerged Death?” *LatinArt.com*. 02 Apr 2003. <http://www.latinart.com/aiview.cfm?id=149>

DOCUMENTATION



SABADO DE CHYG'S #1 (L-R) Video Installation by Daniela Edburg depicting a typical, three course Chyg's meal. The public tasting the food. Lola Sosa and Leti, Chyg's cook, preparing Indian food.



SABADO DE CHYG'S #2 (L-R) People eating Caldo de Camaron (Shrimp Broth) and protecting themselves with an apron-tablecloth hybrid designed by Galia Eibenschutz. Bathroom Installation of La Caca by Yibrán Asuad, starring Hector Dávila. DJ Junior Datsun Mix.



SABADO DE CHYG'S #3 (L-R) 001-008 of Gabriels Batiz's series of 100 pancakes. Son Electrodomesticos performing their Comida Corrida song. The listening public.

DOCUMENTATION



SABADO DE CHYG'S #4 (L-R) Richard Mozka in the kitchen preparing Thai Food. A well nourished customer. Intervention by Luis Fajardo. Placemats by Jerónimo Hagerman.



SÁBADO #5, El Arrabal Cantina (L-R) Emotional Intelligence by Paulina Lasa and Gabriel Acevedo, Performance by La Chica de Fuego (resident singer at El Arrabal) with voice distortion effects by Rodrigo Tovar. Made in China Garden coordinated by Jerónimo Hagerman.



SÁBADO #6, Public parking lot at the corner of Revillagigedo and Victoria (L-R) A boy playing the carnival game created by Máximo González, prizes inside the balloons included plastic guns and fake money. Inflatables by Erick Meyenberg. The public, light boxes by Bordermates in collaboration with a parking lot attendant and a donut truck vendor invited by Shcirin Kretschmann.



Una hora preguntando la hora (One hour asking the time). Video by Douglas Rada filmed from 7 pm to 8 pm in the surrounding area of the public parking lot at the corner of Revillagigedo and Victoria for Sabados #6.

DOCUMENTATION



SÁBADOS #7, Nutrifrutas Juice Bar, Mexico City (L-R) Bordermates wearing special effects make-up by Samanta Elizalde and costumes by Amanda Carcamo, offering tickets for free tortas and juices to passerbies. The customers inside of Nutrifrutas. The Miraculous Water from a Cat's Hand by Renato Ornelas.



SÁBADO #8, DaimlerChrysler Services Building, Santa Fe business district, Mexico City (L-R) Homogenized cubicle decorations by Dulce Chacón and Diana Córdoba; mural by Gabriela Galván in background. Public viewing photo by Yoshua Okón depicting a Chrysler employee's transgression. Window intervention by María Alós and Nicolas Dumit Estévez of Chrysler employees names in a heirarchal order based on the amount of characters in each name.



SÁBADO #9, Bordermates fundraiser at Pasaguero Bar, Mexico City (L-R) Yíbran Asuad video still. Bordermates and friends tending bar. People dancing to the beats of DJ Julian.

DOCUMENTATION



SÁBADO #10, Sundown Salon, Los Angeles (L-R) Paulina and Kelly preparing The Giant Margarita. Taco, Margarita and Conversation. Renato preparing his Tacos del Rancho Chamaco (Mexican hairless dog tacos).



SÁBADO #11, Grand Arts, Kansas City, MO. With Yoshua Okón as part of the programming for Mash Up, we created a simulated tropical oasis inspired by low-tech futuristic aesthetics, primitive comfort and hedonistic science. The installation included videos, a cooking area, live music and rest area (hammocks and “petate carpets”). During visiting hours we cooked, ate, drank “cocos-locos”, rested, made music; inhabited the oasis while encouraging and facilitating the visitors to enjoy the environment. We explored what certain cliches and truths about traveling to a foreign country (especially one labelled as “exotic”) can convey. We were also inspired by what is constructed in both tourist’s and tourism promoter’s minds when they create the image of a certain place and how that fiction at some point in the future becomes reality.

DOCUMENTATION



SÁBADO #12, El Mirador, Glorieta Metro Insurgentes, Mexico City (L-R) South view of El Mirador; Sign painting by Héctor Dávila and Kelly Coats. The public interacting in the environment and lining up for ceviche tostadas. Confused by the simulated tropical environment, many visitors questioned if Kansas City Tropical was an actual place.



SÁBADO #13, ART 2102, Los Angeles (L-R) Erick Meyenberg inflatable in front of Art 2102. Matt Green serving his Cincinnati Skyline chili. Bordermates documentation and ephemera installation.



SÁBADO #14, Maxikiosko Ilusión, Buenos Aires (L-R) Cynthia Kamlemacher sewing customized pillows which were given away for free to the public. The crowd outside of the maxikiosko (convenience store). Using an old family recipe, Gabriel Baggio prepares orange-cream desserts.

DOCUMENTATION



SÁBADO #15, Pasteleria Santa Teresita, Guadalajara (L-R) Baker preparing a cake while artists discuss their cakes with curator/judge, Geovana Ibarra. Cake contest winner, a cake in the form of the vertical rotisserie used to prepare tacos al pastor. Runner up, a cake modeled after Pasteleria Santa Teresita.