

Feb. 16 – Aug. 12, 2018

The Words of Others: León Ferrari and Rhetoric in Times of War

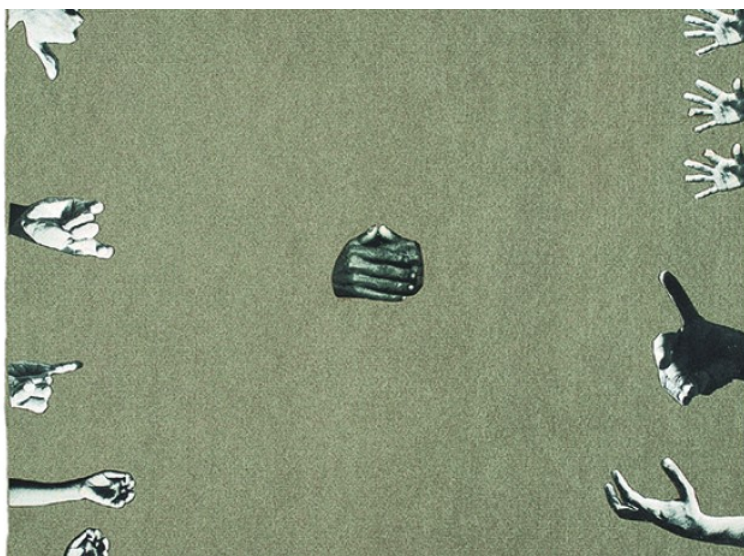
Performance view: León Ferrari, *Operativo: "Pacem in Terris,"* 1972, Adriana Banti Archive, Buenos Aires

Originally organized as part of *Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA* (2017–18), an initiative of the Getty Foundation, this solo exhibition of the Argentinian artist León Ferrari (b. 1920, Buenos Aires; d. 2013, Buenos Aires) focuses on his influential practice from the 1960s to the 1980s. With a particular emphasis on his literary collages—works that incorporate text excerpts from different sources that are reassembled to create an altogether new message—the exhibition features the first full live reading of his seminal 1967 publication *Palabras ajenas* (The Words of Others)—an important Vietnam-era anti-war piece written in the form of a dramatic script.

Palabras ajenas was Ferrari's first literary collage, composed as an extensive dialogue among various characters, including President Lyndon B. Johnson, Adolf Hitler, Pope Paul VI, and God. By means of a cut-and-paste exercise, the work associates the atrocities of the Vietnam War, the horrors of Nazism, and the representations of redemption and punishment in religion through quotations selected from history books, literature, the Bible, newspapers, and magazines. The result is a chorus of contemporary voices that recite and interpret the text, which will be read in full in PAMM's auditorium on February 15 from 1 to 9 pm.

Ferrari's literary collages were a central element of his practice, yet most remain unpublished or have experienced minimal circulation as limited editions or sketchbooks. This exhibition revisits many of these works, exploring uncharted territory and offering a new perspective on Ferrari's work while exploring the aesthetic forms of political intervention that emerged in Latin America in the 1960s. This profoundly contemporary project examines the obscenity of war, the ways the media represents conflict, and the role of political and religious discourse in the expansion of Western culture.

Highlights from the Exhibition



Additional Resources



Video

REDCAT Director Ruth Estévez Links Vietnam-era Anti-war Piece to Today

Ruth Estévez, gallery director at REDCAT LA, takes us behind-the-scenes of PAMM's latest exhibition "The Words of Others: León Ferrari and Rhetoric in Times of War," linking León Ferrari's literary collages to today's current political climate.

Via pammart.wordpress.com (<https://pammart.wordpress.com/2018/02/15/1529/>)



Press Release

PAMM Joins Forces with Local Community Figures, Artists, and Actors to Host Live Reading of Artist León Ferrari's 1967 Publication "The Words of Others"

The performance of the important Vietnam-era anti-war piece will take place on February 15, and marks the exhibition opening of The Words of Others: León Ferrari and Rhetoric in Times of War

PDF (http://www.pamm.org/sites/default/files/2018_02_12_leonferrari.pdf)