

MELANIE SMITH

[1965, England / Lives and works in London / Mexico City]

Born in Poole, England, Melanie Smith received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Reading, where she studied painting. In 1989, she joined an international community of artists and writers in Mexico City. Her work was included in the first exhibition of installation art in Mexico, curated by Guillermo Santamarina at the Museo de Sitio del Ex Convento del Desierto de los Leones. Since then, the city has played an important role in her work; she has produced installations, videos, films, photographs, and paintings in which she considers Mexico City's density of population and structures, its production of detritus, and its endless entropy and reconstruction. These concerns are balanced by Smith's interest in the legacies of modernism and post-avant-garde movements as they manifest themselves in Latin America.

In her 2002 video, *Spiral City*, Smith filmed one of Mexico City's suburbs from a helicopter as it flew in a widening spiral over the densely gridded urban space. The video takes Robert Smithson's *Spiral Jetty* as a reference and draws from the unique topography and dramatic immensity of Mexico City. In other projects, she has focused upon the legacies of Surrealism in the Americas.

Smith is currently based in London, England, UK.

Smith's works have been shown in several important exhibitions, including *Melanie Smith*, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH), Texas, USA (2014); *Melanie Smith*, Fundação Joaquim Nabuco (FUNDAJ), Recife, Brazil (2012); *Seis Pasos Hacia la Realidad*, Laboratorio Arte Alameda (LAA), Mexico City, Mexico (2002); *Spiral City & Other Vicarious Pleasures*, MIT List Visual Arts Center, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA (2009); *Melanie Smith. Farsa y Artificio*, Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA), Barcelona, Spain (2018), Museo Amparo, Puebla, Mexico and Museo Universitario Arte Contemporáneo (MUAC), UNAM, Mexico City, Mexico (2019), Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey (MARCO), Monterrey, Mexico (2020); *Cerca Series: Melanie Smith*, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (MCASD), San Diego, California, USA (2004); *Parres Trilogy*, Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), Miami Beach, Florida, USA (2008); *Digging Up the Present*, Parc Saint-Léger Centre d'Art Contemporain, Pougues-les-Eaux, France (2019); *Dream spots: Taxqueña bus station*, Sala Diaz, San Antonio, Texas, USA (1996); *Melanie Smith, Crocodiles and Elevators*, Šiuolaikinio meno centras (ŠMC)(Contemporary Art Centre (CAC)), Vilnius, Lithuania (2014); *Parres Trilogy, Art Now*, Tate Britain, London, England, UK (2006); and *Red Square Impossible Pink*, Mexican Pavilion, La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy (2011).

Smith's works are represented in numerous international collections, including Daros Latinamerica Collection, Zurich, Switzerland; The Diane and Bruce Halle Collection of Latin American Art, Scottsdale, Arizona, USA; Instituto Inhotim, Brumadinho, Brazil; Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas, USA; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de

Castilla y León (MUSAC), Madrid, Spain; Museo de Arte de Lima (MALI), Peru; Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City, Mexico; Museo Jumex, Mexico City, Mexico; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York City, New York, USA; and Tate Modern, London, England, UK, among others.