

ROSÂNGELA RENNÓ

RÍO-MONTEVIDEO

In 1973 Aurelio González hid the press archive of the Communist newspaper *El Popular* (1957–1973) in a wall cavity of his office building in Montevideo, Uruguay. He did so in anticipation of the forced closure of the newspaper by the military and the censorship of the ensuing Uruguayan dictatorship. The 48,626 negatives remained hidden until 2006, when he recovered them.

The archive is a rare record of the years of economic decline, protest and unrest that preceded the coup, a period which bears very little photographic witness. Working with González, the Centro de Fotografía de Montevideo submitted the negatives to a process of restoration, classification and digitisation.

Rosângela Rennó (b 1962, Brazil), known for her use of archival and vernacular images in her own work, was invited to respond to the archive in 2011. Rennó's home country of Brazil was also subject to repressive military rule between 1964 and 1985. Her selection of photographs was guided by her personal memories of similar scenes and a shared sense of incomplete national visual narrative.

Rennó chose to present a small selection of these images as slide reproductions. The black and white originals have been slightly manipulated by the artist and transformed into digital slides. They are projected onto the gallery walls by vintage slide projectors, purchased in flea markets in Rio de Janeiro and Montevideo. The piece is accompanied by a music box rendition of the Communist Internationale. The tags attached to the plinths list search terms from the Archive's cataloguing system.

During the course of the exhibition different slides will occasionally be placed in the projectors. The audience is invited to activate the projectors and in this way the images are layered and disappear in new and renewing arrangements.

TO ACTIVATE EACH PROJECTOR

Explore further at tpg.org.uk

Río-Montevideo was originally commissioned by Centro de Fotografía in 2011 and has been expanded for this installation.

PRESS THE SWITCH ON PLINTH

The artist and The Photographers' Gallery would like to thank Veronica Cordeiro, Flávia Mattar, Andrés Cribari, Daniel Sosa, Gustavo Marchetti, Maria Angélica Melendi, Michael Asbury, Daniela Seixas, Marcos Gallon and Siri for their contribution.

PLEASE HANDLE WITH CARE

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