

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

*Design Miami/ Basel*

*Booth G25*

*@side.gallery.bcn*

### **LUIS BARRAGÁN**

An engineer by training, Barragan is an autodidactic architect who learned the profession by direct experience and through the works of artist friends and architectural writers. An important local influence was Jesus "Chucho" Reyes, a "naive" primitive painter whose philosophy towards life and art Barragan has shared, being bound by the same loyalties to their native pueblo of Guadalajara. Barragan also generously acknowledges the philosophical influence of Mathias Goeritz, the German-born sculptor who, since the late 40s, has been working and teaching in Mexico. Barragan is also fond of recalling as an influence the house and the personalities of Rosa and Miguel Covarrubias, photographer and scholar, respectively, who for decades acted as the unofficial curators of Mexican culture. But the most decisive influence in Barragan's work has been the popular architecture of Mexico's villages, ranches and convents.

Born in 1902 in Guadalajara (Jalisco, México), Luis Barragán completed his studies and graduated as civil engineer. In the 1920s, he traveled extensively in France and Spain and, in 1931, lived in Paris for a time attending Le Corbusier's lectures. His time in Europe, and subsequently in Morocco, stimulated an interest in the native architecture of North Africa and the Mediterranean, which he related to construction in his own country.

During this trip he became struck with the beauty of the gardens in the cities he visited, such as the Generalife in Granada and the ones in the villas of Italy and the Mediterranean coast. Since then he retained his interest for landscape architecture.

In the late 1920s, he was associated with a movement known as the Escuela Tapatía or Guadalajara School, which espoused a theory of architecture dedicated to the vigorous adherence to regional traditions. His architectural practice was based in Guadalajara from 1927 until 1936 when he moved to Mexico City and remained until his death. His work has been called minimalist, but it is nonetheless sumptuous in colour and texture. Pure planes, walls of stucco, adobe, timber, or even water, are his compositional elements, always interacting with Nature.

Barragán has had a profound influence not only on three generations of Mexican architects, but many more throughout the world. In his acceptance of the Pritzker Architecture Prize, he said, "It is impossible to understand Art and the glory of its history without avowing religious spirituality and the mythical roots that lead us to the very reason of being of the artistic phenomenon. Without the one or the other there would be no Egyptian pyramids, nor those of ancient Mexico. Would the Greek temples and Gothic cathedrals have existed?"

### **FRIDA ESCOBEDO**

Frida Escobedo, born 1979, is a Mexican architect. She specifically designs and restores urban spaces: housing, community centres, art venues, and hotels. When creating, Escobedo illustrates her works within a general theme of time, but not in a historical context but rather in a social context.

She founded her own architectural and Design Studio in 2006 which is currently located in Mexico City. Escobedo is known for creating temporary and interactive works which can accommodate multiple intended purposes.

In 2018, she became the youngest architect to work on the Serpentine Pavilion. Her architectural work includes projects such as the courtyard at La Tallera in Cuernavaca, while her artistic undertakings can be seen in places such as the Museo Experimental el Eco in the Mexico City or the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

Escobedo was named one of the top 30 most influential architects in London by archdaily.com

### **DANIEL STEEGMANN MANGRANÉ**

Daniel Steegmann Mangrané is a Catalan artist based in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. His body of work encompasses different formats based on subtle and poetic experimentation that questions the relationship between language and the world. His artwork, mainly conceptual, shows concern with existence and the specific characteristics of objects, at the same time activating abstract language to generate thought, while using the idea of unstable meaning and dematerialized constructions as a way of addressing questions of the "object".

Recently Steegmann has had exhibitions at CRAC Alsace (2015), A Certain Lack of Coherence in Oporto (2013) and Halfhouse (Barcelona, 2011), and has taken part in group shows such as The Generational Triennial, New Museum (New York, 2015), the 12th Cuenca Biennial (Ecuador, 2014), the 9th Mercosul Biennial (Porto Alegre, 2013) and the 30th São Paulo Biennial (2012).

### **SABINE MARCELIS**

Sabine Marcelis is a designer living and working in Rotterdam the Netherlands.

Raised in New Zealand, she studied industrial design for two years at Victoria University of Wellington, and continued her studies at the Design Academy Eindhoven, where she graduated in 2011. Since graduating, she has been operating Studio Sabine Marcelis, working within the fields of product, installation and spacial design with a strong focus on materiality. Her work is characterised by pure forms which highlight material properties.

Marcelis applies a strong aesthetic point of view to her collaborations with industry specialists. This method of working allows her to intervene in the manufacturing process, using material research and experimentation to achieve new and surprising visual effects for projects both showcased in galleries and commissioned by commercial clients.

Since starting her studio, Marcelis' work has been exhibited at Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam and Musee des art Decoratif, Paris.