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Lucy + Jorge Orta: Food

Press view and artists' tour: Friday 9th September at 11am

Exhibition dates: 10 September – 4 December 2016

Tues – Sun, 10am – 5pm

Venue: City Gallery, Peterborough Museum, Priestgate, Peterborough, PE1 1LF

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#MetalOrtaFood



Metal is pleased to present **Lucy + Jorge Orta: Food**, a survey exhibition including sculpture, drawing and objects by internationally acclaimed artists Lucy + Jorge Orta. The exhibition, at City Gallery in Peterborough Museum, is the culmination of twenty-years' dedication to the power of art and food. The exhibition is accompanied by the monograph *Food and the Public Sphere*, published by Black Dog, with contributors including Hou Hanru, Nigel Prince and Ellen Lupton.

Both exhibition and publication examine the artists' practice in the context of the major concerns of the 21st century: species loss, food security and food waste in the face of world population increase. The Orta's food recycling projects, mass open-air meals, gleaned gastronomic diners and mobile soup kitchens have pioneered a renewed interest in the politics of food, and of the social dynamic and ritual practices of eating together. Lucy + Jorge Orta illuminate, through the diversity of their work, issues of abundance, scarcity, waste and loss, while drawing people into a reflective experience of art that combines the aesthetics of eating, drinking, cooking, and dining together.

The exhibition at Peterborough City Gallery marks the culmination of an 18-month residency with arts organisation Metal in the city of Peterborough. In 2015, Lucy + Jorge created 70 x 7 The Meal Act XXXIX in

the city, their first major UK outdoor meal in this ongoing series of community ‘social sculptures’, seating 500 local residents for a spectacular lunch of locally sourced produce.

Lucy + Jorge Orta: Food draws together archival work from their Food series, alongside new sculptures and drawings inspired from the Peterborough Harvest meal. Running alongside the show will be a diverse programme of activities and events ranging from bread making and pickling workshops, artist talks, and public debates on the politics of food.

Bodies of work within the exhibition:

The Meal Series

The **70 x 7 The Meal** series takes the everyday ritual of dining and introduces motifs, symbolism and language into the design of bespoke Royal Limoges porcelain plates and table runners as triggers for discussion amongst the diners and catalysts for change. Each of the Orta Meals explore its own social and culinary agenda.

The exhibition will present for the first time the whole collection of Orta designed porcelain plates from the 70 x 7 series, alongside the bespoke silk jacquard table runners, woven by local Suffolk weavers.

Also a major new sculpture, featuring over 100 loaves of bread baked by the residents of Peterborough who attended the Harvest meal. Each loaf of bread has been cast in aluminium to create a stunning centre piece to the show.



HortiRecycling

In 1996, when farmers in France protested against EU agricultural policy by dumping their entire year’s harvest of fruit and vegetables onto the motorways, the Orta’s began gathering food waste and leftover produce and worked with top chefs to turn the produce into jams and preserves which they shared at stalls outside of the famous Les Halles retail centre, once the former farmers’ market of Paris.

Through the process of sharing and tasting, Lucy + Jorge were able to engage people about/on the subject of food waste. This led on to a body of work entitled **HortiRecycling** and the creation of structures that enabled a food recycling initiative to take place in local markets. These structures, often re-purposing shopping trolleys, enabled people to not only gather the produce but clean, cook and redistribute it.



Bio-diversity and Seed Bank:

In May 2013, the United Nations stated that, although the world contains 30,000 edible plants, only 30 crops account for 95% of the energy in human food. Even more frightening, 75% of plant diversity has been irreversibly lost over the last 100 years. The world has become increasingly dependent on broadly-adapted high-yield crops to the exclusion of varieties adapted to local conditions. Mono-cropping vast fields of genetically uniform seeds requires expensive chemical fertilisers and toxic pesticides. As the world's population of 7 billion will expand to 9 billion by 2050, availability and access to food will become more urgent. Food production will have to increase two-fold to keep up with demand.



The artists' Seed Bank is a vast collection of watercolour drawings inspired by seeds, pollen and tubers that draw attention to the immense diversity of our natural world, currently under threat. Over 100 new drawings will be shown for the first time in **Lucy + Jorge Orta: Food**. Together this represents a metaphorical seed bank; preserving particular varieties not in commercial use or that may be threatened with extinction. These art works advocate the preservation of biodiversity and the wisdom and imagination necessary to do it.

The drawings will be accompanied by a beautiful new series of highly sculptural and exquisite Heirloom Seeds, enlarged from their drawings and produced in collaboration with the Venetian glass maestros of Murano, with silver and gold inlay.

For more information please contact Four Colman Getty

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Notes

About the Artists:

Lucy + Jorge Orta's collaborative practice focuses on social and ecological issues, employing a diversity of media – drawing, sculpture, installation, couture, painting, silkscreen, photography, video, light and performance – to realise major bodies of work. Amongst their most emblematic series are: Refuge Wear / Body Architecture: portable minimum habitats bridging architecture and dress; HortiRecycling / 70 x 7 The Meal: the local and global food chain and the ritual of community dining; Nexus Architecture: alternative modes of establishing the social link; The Gift: a metaphor for the heart and the biomedical ethics of organ donation; OrtaWater / Clouds: water scarcity and the problems arising from pollution and corporate control; Antarctica: highlights the urgent need to consider the dignity of people suffering as a consequence of climate change; and Amazonia: the value of the natural environment to our daily lives and to our survival.

In recognition of their contribution to sustainability, the artists received the Green Leaf Award in 2007 for artistic excellence with an environmental message, presented by the United Nations Environment Programme in partnership with the Natural World Museum at the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, Norway. In 2013 the artists' monumental Meteoros was selected for the inaugural Terrace Wires public art commission for St Pancras International in London.

Lucy + Jorge Orta's artwork has been the focus of major solo exhibitions, including: The Curve, Barbican Art Gallery, London (2005); Venice Biennale (2005); Biennial of the End of the World, Ushuaia, Antarctic Peninsula (2007); Natural History Museum, London (2010); Shanghai Biennale (2012); Yorkshire Sculpture Park (2013); Parc de la Villette, Paris (2014); London Museum Ontario (2015), Emscherkunst Triennial (2016).

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About Metal:

Metal was founded in London in 2002 by Jude Kelly CBE, working with current Artistic Director and CEO, Colette Bailey since its inception. It has been active in Liverpool since 2004, in Southend-on-Sea since 2007 and in Peterborough since 2012.

Each of the spaces – Edge Hill Station in Liverpool, Chalkwell Hall in Southend and Chauffeurs Cottage in Peterborough – were renovated to create centres of activity for artists, creatives and community. From these bases, Metal work with artists and local agencies to provide the catalyst that is helping to transform the potential for thriving creative and cultural industries in these three places. Each year Metal works with around 1200 artists from across the world, 18,000 active participants, over 60,000 live audiences and more than 100,000 online audiences.

Metal's ambition is to transform the potential of people and places through great art and inspiring ideas.

Metal has been highlighted as a case study in the DCMS Cultural White Paper, published March 2016.

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