

New Artist-run Platform LA ESCUELA____ Offers Free Programs and Open Calls

Artists from across the Americas are collaborating on this open-access platform for radical learning and collective making in public spaces.

by LA ESCUELA____
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Miguel Braceli, "Free Library" (2013), public art, Caracas, Venezuela

Online and on-site across several regions of Latin America, the artist-run platform LA ESCUELA____ provides a transdisciplinary program for reflection and the creation of formative projects. These collaborative artistic experiences incorporate both creating and learning, bringing together artists, researchers, students, institutions, and local communities to address pressing social, political, and environmental issues.

LA ESCUELA____ hosts free programs on its open-access platform and is rooted in a longstanding Latin American tradition of artist-run schools and collective-based educational models. Visitors to the website will also find curated research on this tradition and contemporary practices, and original content is continuously uploaded to this growing digital resource.

Over 60 collaborators from 12 countries are already taking part in the first semester of LA ESCUELA___, including Cecilia Vicuña, Nicolás Paris, Luis Camnitzer, Mónica Mayer, Ricardo Basbaum, Felipe Rivas San Martín, Patricia Domínguez and Andrés Pereira Paz, Adrián Balseca, Laura Uribe, Esvin Alarcón Lam, Laura Anderson Barbata, Mônica Hoff, and Renata Cervetto, among others. Our institutional network includes Ciudad Abierta and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, MUAC – UNAM, Museo Experimental el Eco, Goethe-Institut Venezuela, Universidad Simón Bolívar, Universidad de Los Andes, Universidad Central de Venezuela, and the Ivy Plus Libraries Confederation’s Latin American and Caribbean Contemporary Art Web Archive.



Laura Anderson Barbata, “Intervention: Red” (2021), in collaboration with the Brooklyn Jumbies (photo by Stefan Falke)

Our community is a trans-local network of artists and educators who are building an archive of collective research and contemporary art. We hope to inspire social action by mapping the legacies of artist-run practices and collective-based educational models in Latin America and placing them in a global context.

LA ESCUELA___ encourages artists, researchers, and educators to submit proposals for articles and projects. This open call closes on May 31, 2022.

The joint founders of LA ESCUELA___ are Venezuelan artist, architect, and educator Miguel Braceli, and the international nonprofit Siemens Stiftung. Drawing on his experience as a professor and a student, Braceli sees LA ESCUELA___ as a response to the arts’s current status in higher education, questioning how a school can be conceived and shaped as an artistic project, beyond institutional confines. And so, the platform itself functions as a collective work, involving artists and researchers in the creation of its programs.



Cecilia Vicuña, "Beach Ritual (near Athens)" (2017), documenta 14, ritual performance (photo by Natalia Figueroa, image courtesy the artist)



Ciudad Abierta: Tournament "Edros v/s Oides" (1979) (image courtesy José Vial Armstrong Archive)



Miguel Braceli, "Horizontal Monuments" (2020), Espacios Revelados, Guadalajara, Mexico. An initiative by Siemens Stiftung.