



¿Qué estoy haciendo aquí?
Luis Roldán

October - November, 2022



BODEGA PILOTO

CASAS
RIEGNER



Installation view @Bodega Piloto (2022)

Luis Roldán (Colombia, 1955)

¿Qué estoy haciendo aquí?, 1999-2000

Asphalt coated paper, graphite, oil sticks, Rolodex cards, pencil

Asphalt coated paper: 2.7 x 11 m; 2.7 x 18 m

Rolodex cards: 5.5 x 10 cm each

Overall installation: 19 x 2.7 m

Luis Roldán received the Luis Caballero Award in 2001 with the work *¿Qué estoy haciendo aquí?* [*What Am I Doing Here?*], currently presented at Bodega Piloto in Bogotá. The work consists of 850 Rolodex cards, some depicting a lemur and others a cockroach, at different moments of action. These small-scale drawings sit along the sides of a large-scale drawing of over 30 meters long.

At the time when Roldán was preparing to participate in the Luis Caballero Award competition, he was living in New York city. There he came across a picture of a lemur on the New York Times illustrating an article about the endangerment of such species. The article explained how the primate had survived long travels by eating cockroaches—which in turn, are one of the most resilient and long-existing species on the planet. Roldán got inspired about the survival instincts of these animals while he was also reading Bruce Chatwin's book about the histories of nomad cultures. He began meditating about the idea of long-distance travel, survival, and resiliency by drawing on hundreds of Rolodex cards that had been gifted to him. When he arrived in Bogotá—where he also has a studio—and convinced a neighbouring public school to let him use their basketball court to work on a large-scale drawing on



Detail of the installation @Bodega Piloto (2022)

graphite stick, depicting a somber, dark landscape—just as Colombia’s own political and violent history was undergoing in the 1990s and early 2000s. At that time a big part of the country’s population was forced to migrate to survive the war; resiliency was their only option to start a new life in a different place.

The work was originally installed at Galería Santa Fé in Bogotá, a gallery that used to sit in the round-shaped planetarium building in the National Park. As such, the gallery walls were curved giving the viewer a panoramic view of the work. The small-scale detail of the Rolodex cards invited the viewer to get closer and travel along the work. For the installation at Bodega Piloto, the same curvature of the gallery walls was recreated to allow the viewer to experience the work as first intended.



Detail of the installation @Bodega Piloto (2022)

The Luis Caballero Award—named after one of Colombia’s most important artists—is the most prestigious visual arts award in Colombia. It was created by the local government in 1996 to highlight the work of mid-career artists, which are selected upon a public call. Held every two years at the Galería Santa Fé in Bogotá, the award presents newly created works funded by the production fund of the award. Since 2010, the award has taken place also at other locations around the city, allowing artists to create site specific works on view for about a year each. In the past, some of those locations have been the National Archives, the Heroes Monument, and the Museum of Modern Art in Bogotá. At the end of the exhibition cycle, a special jury appointed at each iteration, selects the winning artist.

Organized by: Bodega Piloto and Galería Casas Riegner
Exhibition design: ZITA (Zona Industrial Taller de Arquitectura)
Text: Catalina Acosta Carrizosa



Installation view at Galería Santa Fé in 2000. Source: Archive of Galería Santa Fé



Premio Luis Caballero exhibition catalogue. Source: Archive of Galería Santa Fé