



FEBRUARY 6TH TO 11TH
11:00 A 18:00 H

Reverberaciones

HABITACIÓN 116 ESTUDIO
GOBERNADOR TIBURCIO MONTIEL 22,
SAN MIGUEL CHAPULTEPEC II SECC,
MIGUEL HIDALGO, 11850
CDMX

CONTACT:
HOLA@COMA.ART

For Immediate Release

- *Reverberaciones*, an exhibition presenting *Criollo*, the new collection from the architecture and interior design studio Habitación 116, inspired by the creative process of Clara Porset.
- *Criollo* comprises five basic pieces designed for a one-room study that explore scale, different uses, and furnishings for inhabiting small spaces.
- The exhibition is set against the backdrop of Clara Porset's former studio within the iconic *Building for Four Artists*, designed by Max Cetto and Luis Barragán in 1939.
- *Criollo* reflects Habitación 116's ongoing creative process, where repetition on the same theme and exploration of various techniques, materials, scales, and forms shape their pieces and collections.
- The exhibition will be open to the public from February 6 to 11, 2024.

"[In Mexico], there is an extraordinary plastic heritage whose *Reverberaciones* are continually perceived by those who are passionate about design, making us even more aware of its dynamic forces in motion."

Clara Porset (1951)

Habitación 116 presents *Reverberaciones*, an exhibition that delves into the creative process, influences, and interpretations shaping their work. The exhibition is rooted in a fundamental principle that guided Clara Porset (1895-1981) throughout her professional journey: the impact of the plastic heritage of ancient Mexican cultures and its integration into modern design. Porset coined the term *Reverberaciones* to underscore the significance of these remnants from the past. Unlike an echo, a reverberation is a reflection of sound that begins before its source ends, creating a nuanced experience for the listener, who doesn't perceive it as a new or different sound.

As part of this exhibition, Habitación 116 presents *Criollo*, a new collection comprising five versatile pieces with dual functions tailored for small spaces. The collection includes a *Criollo leather butaque*, a *Criollo banqueta* (bench/side table with tray), an *H_ dining/writing table*, a *daybed/bed*, a *storage cabinet* (kitchen or clothing), and an *H_ round living room table*. These pieces are designed to function individually or in pairs and can be ingeniously combined to create larger configurations. For example, the individual daybed piece, when combined, transforms into a king-size bed. Similarly, the desk, when joined and arranged with the trestles in different ways, offers a range of tables in various sizes and formats.

Habitación 116's proposed pieces draw inspiration from the five furniture items exhibited by Clara Porset in 1947 at the Aino and Alvar Aalto showroom in Manhattan. This exhibition, featuring a room setting, aimed to showcase designs manufactured by their company, Artek-Pascoe. Despite the scarcity of photographic records from



FEBRUARY 6TH TO 11TH

11:00 A 18:00 H

HABITACIÓN 116 ESTUDIO
GOBERNADOR TIBURCIO MONTIEL 22,
SAN MIGUEL CHAPULTEPEC II SECC,
MIGUEL HIDALGO, 11850
CDMX

CONTACT:
HOLA@COMA.ART

this event, the *Criollo* collection's development found its foundation in a *New York Times* review that listed and described the five pieces. Porset's creations at Artek-Pascoe were specifically designed to cater to the requirements of a one-bedroom apartment, referencing the space that served as her studio at that time: The Apartment B of the *Building for Four Artists*, designed by Max Cetto and Luis Barragán in 1939.

This space had a profound impact on Porset's creative process, reinforcing her consistent belief in the pivotal role of the architectural environment in shaping individuals and influencing their intellect. In 1940, Clara Porset and her husband, the muralist Xavier Guerrero (1896-1974), relocated to this newly constructed building, where they resided for the next two decades. Within this environment, Porset solidified her distinctive style, skillfully blending the influences of rural Mexico, which she extensively explored, with the principles of international functionalism.

The butaque stands out as the quintessential representation of Clara Porset's design philosophy, serving as the namesake for the *Criollo* collection. "The butaque were originally brought directly or indirectly from Spain, but they have become so integral to Mexican life and culture that they are now distinctive and vernacular household items throughout the country, with countless variations applied to the original Spanish structures." (Clara Porset in "Popular Furniture of Mexico", *Mexican Arts and Crafts*, 1948). With the butaque, Porset not only integrates the plastic heritage of ancient cultures and rural Mexico into the rationalist principles of the first half of the 20th century but also engages in an exhaustive exercise of repetition to explore diverse solutions and styles within design. The myriad variations of the butaque reflect the geographical and cultural diversity of the regions in Mexico where they are produced. In a similar vein, *Criollo* by H116 serves as an exercise, seeking to comprehend how the repetition and exploration of different techniques, materials, scales, and forms of the same theme constitute the creative process leading to the resolution of a piece or collection.

In addition to framing the exhibition and offering historical context, Apartment B of the *Building for Four Artists*, in collaboration with architect Andrew Trotter, is envisioned as the catalyst for the *Residences for Designers project in Mexico City*. This approach reinstates the functionalist architecture of Cetto and Barragán to one of its original purposes: fostering creative processes through exchange, collaboration, and dialogue among artists, architects, and designers. Within its 70m2, Apartment B encapsulates the *Reverberaciones* of an era defined by the pursuit of the essential, precision, and logic, distancing itself from redundancy and artificiality. Today, our aspiration is to reintegrate these ideals into our daily lives through thoughtful design.



FEBRUARY 6TH TO 11TH

11:00 A 18:00 H

HABITACIÓN 116 ESTUDIO
GOBERNADOR TIBURCIO MONTIEL 22,
SAN MIGUEL CHAPULTEPEC II SECC,
MIGUEL HIDALGO, 11850
CDMX

CONTACT:
HOLA@COMA.ART

About Habitación 116

Habitación 116 is a Mexican interior architecture studio based in Mexico City, guided by the creative direction of architects Rafael Rivera and Javier Claverie. Their focus revolves around crafting interior design and furniture projects with the aim of creating enduring, unique spaces and concepts. Embracing an aesthetic characterized by clean lines and abstract designs, their approach aims to stand the test of time.

Habitación 116's wealth of experience stems from collaborations with various architecture studios, luxury brands, chefs, museums, and private clients, both in Mexico and internationally. Their scope of work extends from consultancy to the comprehensive execution and manufacturing of specific interior architecture projects, including bespoke furniture and accessories crafted in our own workshops.

Reverberaciones is backed by the support of UNNO gallery and fueled by the research conducted by CO,MA. It marks the third installment in an ongoing collaboration between these entities, dedicated to historical research centered on the relationships and influences among Mexican and international artists, architects, and designers during the first half of the 20th century in Mexico.