

"Miguel Calderon, Free Fall"
Domus (online)
June 15, 2017

LUHRING
AUGUSTINE

531 West 24th Street
New York NY 10011
tel 212 206 9100 fax 212 206 9055
www.luhringaugustine.com

domus



"Caída libre (Free fall)", is an exhibition by Miguel Calderón, featuring a film and sculptural installation centered on the theme of falconry. This presentation in the Luhring Augustine Bushwick location, Brooklyn, is organized in collaboration with kurimanzutto, Mexico City.

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Miguel Calderón, installation view *Caida Libre* at kurimanzutto, Mexico City, 2017. © Miguel Calderón, courtesy the artist, kurimanzutto, Mexico City, and Luhring Augustine, New York

For Calderón, falconry presents a unique interdependence between man and animal, predicated on the falconer's desire to connect with nature and the bird's instinctual drive to hunt for survival. His interest towards the subject originates from his personal experience of having a hawk as a young boy. Struck by the years of discipline it takes in training one's bird, he became fascinated with the obsessive, almost compulsory fixation one develops in maintaining this partnership.

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Miguel Calderón, Installation view *Caída Libre* at kurimanzutto, Mexico City, 2017. © Miguel Calderón, courtesy the artist, kurimanzutto, Mexico City, and Luhring Augustine, New York

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Miguel Calderón, *Perchas*, set of 54 mixed media pieces of variable dimensions, 2017. © Miguel Calderón, courtesy the artist, kurimanzutto, Mexico City, and Luhring Augustine, New York

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Miguel Calderón, *Camaleón*, video, 2017. © Miguel Calderón, courtesy the artist, kurimanzutto, Mexico City, and Luhring Augustine, New York

Calderón's film illustrates this relationship through the story of Camaleón, a bouncer at a nightclub in Mexico City who takes his falcon out hunting every morning. Camaleón regards his bird with respect, lust, and admiration. He watches her hunt empathically, as if to relive his own pursuits and conquests. Violence pervades Camaleón's life, both in the chaotic atmosphere of his daily occupation as well as his homicidal past. Such brutality, however, stands in direct opposition to his unwavering affection for his falcon, on which he depends as if it were a euphoric drug.

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Miguel Calderón, *Perchas*, set of 54 mixed media pieces of variable dimensions, 2017. © Miguel Calderón, courtesy the artist, kurimanzutto, Mexico City, and Luhring Augustine, New York

The risk of losing one's bird during each hunt consumes the falconer with an incontrovertible fear. It is the material of Camaleón's nightmares, mitigated only by the sight of his falcon settled safely on its perch. Calderón's sculptural installation of abandoned falcon perches harps on this potentiality. Without their occupants, these objects take on a sculptural quality.

from 22 June to 28 July

Miguel Calderón. Caída libre (Free fall)

[Luhring Augustine Bushwick](#)

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