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## Visual Arts at Americas Society

Americas Society | 680 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10065 | [www.americas-society.org](http://www.americas-society.org)

### Fernell Franco: *Amarrados* [Bound]

Guest curator: Maria lovino

On view from September 17 through December 12, 2009

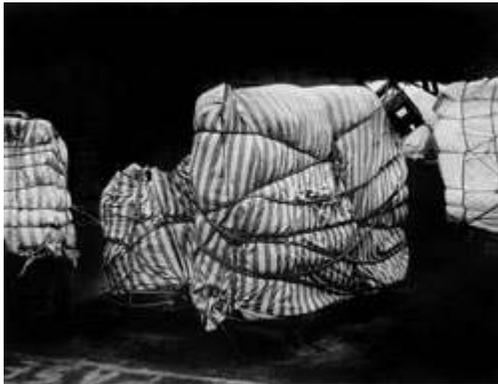
Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 12:00-6:00 pm

Free admission

Exhibition Opening: Thursday, September 17

Curatorial Talk: 6:00 pm [Reservations required!](#)

Opening Reception: 7:00 pm



Americas Society is proud to present the first U.S. solo museum exhibition of Colombian photographer Fernell Franco (1942 - 2006). The exhibition is guest curated by Maria lovino and features seventeen large-scale black and white prints. The exhibition takes its title from the artist's series of the same name, featuring work developed between 1978 and 1994 in the streets and markets of Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Depicting isolated, bound and wrapped structures, the photographs are exceptional in their use of tone, shadow, and composition. A self-taught practitioner who began his career as a photojournalist, Franco's work is now considered by leading critics to be among the most important in Latin American photography.

*Fernell Franco: Amarrados* [Bound] examines Franco's artistic process and the development of his ongoing photographic practice. His subjects are isolated inanimate objects, trussed by street vendors to protect the merchandise they hold. Franco's high contrasted images are devoid of human presence and convey death, solitude, violence, abandonment, and mystery.

Guest curator Maria lovino aims to introduce New York viewers to a photographer who blurred the boundaries between art and photojournalism, and whose work disseminated the use of the medium into contemporary artistic practices in Colombia. For lovino, Franco "reveals an unedited aspect of the abrupt and violent processes in which modernity was developed in countries of Latin America and the periphery."

As a child Franco lived through the upsurge of the civil conflict in Colombia. He was forced to move from the countryside to Cali, where he endured poverty and social dislocation. He worked as a photojournalist for local newspapers including *Diario Occidente*, *El País de Cali*; and for *Cromos* magazine. Developing his craft into a practice, Franco was awarded the Gold Medal at Salón Nacional de Artes Visuales en Bogotá (1976); the First Photography Prize at the first Bienal de la Havana, Cuba (1984); and the Colombian Award for Photography (2001). Franco was a special guest at PhotoEspaña and FotoRio (2005) and at Festival de la Luz in Buenos Aires, Argentina (2004). Earlier this year Franco was honored with a posthumous retrospective at the tenth Havana Biennale.

This exhibition is organized in collaboration with the Fundación Fernell Franco, Colombia.

### Curatorial Talk

**Thursday, September 17**

**6:00 pm**

Speakers:

Guest Curator **Maria Iovino** and **Melissa Harris** (Editor, Aperture Magazine)

Guest curator Maria Iovino will discuss Fernell Franco's *Amarrados* [Bound] series, contextualizing the distinctive voice these photographs have achieved in Latin American photography, and offering insight into the thinking process behind Franco's exploration of social photographic practices.

#### Reservations:

**Americas Society Members:** Reserve today at [membersres@americas-society.org](mailto:membersres@americas-society.org)

**Non-Members:** Reservations will open on Thursday, September 10. [More info.](#)

### Round Table: Between Accuracy and Aesthetic. Documentary Photography, Photojournalism and Social Photographic Practices in the 1970s and 1980s

**Thursday, October 1**

**6:30 pm**

**King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center at New York University**

**53 Washington Square South, New York, NY**

Speakers:

**Sagrario Berti** (Photography Historian), **Susan Meiselas** (Photographer) and **Luis Roldán** (Visual Artist).

Moderated by **Gabriela Rangel** (Director and Curator, Visual Arts Department Americas Society).

Like many important photographers in Latin America included in the landmark exhibition *Image and Memory*, Fernell Franco (Cali, 1942-2006) made a living as a photojournalist. Franco developed an outstanding body of works, among them notably the *Amarrados* [Bound] series, in which a lyrical composition of the image suspends the objectivity of the medium. Members of this panel are invited to discuss documentary photo practices in the 1970s-1980s in which the distinctions between truth and fiction, and drama and objectivity were eroded.

This program is organized in conjunction with the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, at New York University.

Americas Society gratefully acknowledges the generous support of our donors for the exhibition *Fernell Franco: Amarrados* [Bound] and accompanying public programs: Erica Roberts, PINTA Art, Solita Mishaan, Consulate General of Colombia in New York, Nohra Haime Gallery, and Anonymous. In-kind support is provided by Arte al Día International, ArtNexus, and Aviatur, Colombia.

Delta Air Lines is the official airline sponsor for the Fernell Franco exhibition.

The Visual Arts program is also supported, in part, with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.



NOHRA HAIME GALLERY



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## Culture Programs Reservations

**Americas Society Members** - Reserve your FREE tickets today for guaranteed admission to our culture programs this season and Members-only Meet-the-Artist receptions! Email [membersres@americas-society.org](mailto:membersres@americas-society.org) or call (212) 277 8359 ext. 4.

**Not yet a Member?** Don't be left out! Join today to guarantee your free admission to our culture programs. Learn more about member [benefits](#), and email [membership@americas-society.org](mailto:membership@americas-society.org), or call (212) 277 8359 ext. 4 to join. Join by September 30 and receive a free Music of the Americas CD!

**Non-Members Admission** - Limited seating will be available five business days prior to each Culture program on a first-come, first-served basis. Please visit our [events calendar](#) for registration information.

## Location and Hours

All our culture programs are free, open to the public, and take place at Americas Society, unless noted. We are located at 680 Park Avenue at 68th Street in New York City. To arrive by public transportation, take the **6** train to **68th Street / Hunter College**. [Map](#). For wheelchair access, kindly call in advance.

Gallery hours are Wednesdays to Saturdays from 12 pm to 6 pm.

For more information, visit [www.americas-society.org](http://www.americas-society.org). If you have questions or comments, please email us at [culture@americas-society.org](mailto:culture@americas-society.org).

## Membership

Americas Society provides distinctive value to our members, whose support is vital to the success of our mission. Our members enjoy an exciting range of exclusive benefits that include preferred seating and members-only, meet-the-artist receptions at our Cultural programs. For more information please visit [our website](#) or call us at (212) 249 8359 ext. 4.

Americas Society is a tax-exempt public charity described in 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

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## About Americas Society

Americas Society is the premier forum dedicated to education, debate and dialogue in the Americas. Our mission is to foster an understanding of the contemporary political, social and economic issues confronting Latin America, the Caribbean and Canada, and to increase public awareness and appreciation of the diverse cultural heritage of the Americas and the importance of the inter-American relationship. Americas Society unites opinion leaders to exchange ideas and develop solutions to the challenges facing the Americas today.

Image: Fernell Franco, Untitled photograph from the series *Amarrados* [Bound], ca. 1994, gelatin silver print, chemical intervention and air brush, image courtesy of the Fundación Fernell Franco, Colombia.

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