

[PERSONAL]—geographies—

—TERESA MULET—

ACCOUNTING EXERCISE

installation and video document, 2013-2017

Political behavior is not only a matter of calculating advantages and weaknesses against the adversary, but also (and foremost) a personal issue, which is where discernment of the subjective and vital effects of any human action takes place. Beyond any partisan affiliation, each one - in the privacy of their conscience - can make their own accounts to discriminate the just and the despicable.

Teresa Mulet and her father have done the exercise of accounting for the absences: 283,366 victims of violence in Venezuela between 1999 and 2016. The ritual performed by her father, who as a child came to Venezuela from Spain searching refuge from Spanish Civil War and the advent of Franco regime, held an indignation focused on the problem of violence. The strategy has been the crossing between graphics, performances and installations. The sum of the dead - always one by one - is performed literally and consecutively, in a mechanical calculator, whose repetitive sound evokes the normalization of the repetitive structure of political violence. Therefore, the result is - as a substitute for a multiple death certificate - a continuous roll of paper, without spine, or cover, or back cover, leaving only the fatiguing inscription of number 1 and the sign of +. It is only the "gut" rolled and naked, without heading nor colophon; the docket of an action that consists in counting lost lives. The paradox of this simple arithmetic lies in the fact that the sum of the deceased is actually a numerical decrease, since each victim is "minus one". That is, the account gives a negative balance. Through this fatal statistics, the numbers without a name stop being abstract figures to become a measurable evidence of an unmeasurable loss.

*283.366 muertes violentas
en Venezuela
emplear suma básica
operación aritmética
testificar certificar
triste dolorosa circunstancia social
padeecemos venezolanos
espiral violencia
máquina sumadora
teclas continuamente sonando
días, semanas, meses
sonido recuerdo pequeña
papá contador
hoy complice acción - ritual
los-seres-queridos
nos-unimos en-rituales
acompañarnos en-el-dolor
encontrar serenidad
un-mantra*

Teresa Mulet is a visual artist and designer. She studied design at the Instituto de Diseño Neuman in Caracas and philosophy at the Universidad Central de Venezuela, and she was a founding member of the Escuela Prodiseno in Caracas. Mulet develops transdisciplinary projects that focus on words and typography as conceptual and visual basis applied in the domains of communication, design, art and architecture. Her strategy is to intertwine procedures of graphic design with those of installation and performance in order to call attention to the normalization of the repetitive structure of political violence, disrespect for human rights and negation of dignity of life. The problem violence in Venezuela has been the central topic of her latest projects: artist's book Informe 1999-2016, installation Ejercicio volumen (2014-2017) and installation with video documentation Ejercicio contable (2014). These projects have been presented in her individual exhibitions in Caracas and Barcelona and in collective exhibitions such as Caracas reset (Paris, 2018), Poli(criti)ca (Lima, 2018), ARCOMadrid2018, Between utopias and realities (Vic, 2016) and Traslocations, temporal experiences – artistic practices and local contexts (Barcelona, 2015). Lives and works in Barcelona and Caracas.