nara roesler lucia koch



lucia koch

b. 1966, in Porto Alegre, Brazil lives and works in São Paulo, Brazil

Lucia Koch engages with a variety of media, including Installations, photographs, and videos as a means of investigating matters of space, consistently proposing new relations of scale, occupation, and materiality. Through her practice, Koch establishes a profound dialogue with architecture, both through the way in which her work interacts with the space it occupies, respecting its physical and historical specificities, and by creating imaginary spaces from banal objects, provoking and reorienting perception.

According to the critic and curator Moacir dos Anjos, the artist 'reorganizes the visual understanding of spaces [...] and establishes a public meaning for the work, whether through the negotiation involved in their making, or the unsettling effect it causes.' Since 2001, Koch has been photographing the interiors of empty cardboard boxes and packaging. These images create the perception that they are virtual extensions of their exhibition spaces and bring, in an unorthodox way, the artist's research gradually closer to architecture when inquiring about processes whereby space turns into a place. On the other hand, in using light filters, fabrics, and other materials, she plays with lighting and its chromatic effects, always tensioning the relationships between inside and outside, transparency, and opacity in creating unique and sensitive atmospheres.

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selected solo exhibitions

Double Trouble, Palais d'Iéna, Paris, France (2022)

PROPAGANDA, Instituto de Arte Contemporânea de Inhotim,

Brumadinho, Brazil (2021)

Casa de vento, Casa de Vidro, Sao Paulo, Brazil (2019)

A longa noite, Sesc Pompéia, Sao Paulo, Brazil (2018)

La temperatura del aire, Fundación Caja de Burgos, Burgos, Spain (2015)

Mañana, montaña, ciudad y Brotaciones, Flora ars + natura, Bogota, Colombia (2014)

Cromoteísmo, Capela do Morumbi, Sao Paulo, Brazil (2012)

Correções de luz, Centro Universitário Maria Antonia (CeUMA), Sao Paulo, Brazil (2007)

selected group exhibitions

1st Rabat Biennial, Marocco (2019)

Fiction and Fabrication. Photography of Architecture after the Digital Turn, Museu de Arte, Arquitetura e Tecnologia, Lisbon, Portugal (2019)

2th Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA (PST: LA/LA) -Learning from Latin America: Art, Architecture and Visions of Modernism, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG), Los Angeles, USA (2017)

Cruzamentos: Contemporary Art in Brazil, Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, USA (2014)

11th Lyon Biennial, France (2011)

When Lives Become Form, Yerba Buena Center For Arts, San Francisco, USA (2009); Contemporary Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan (2008)

27th São Paulo Biennial, Brazil (2006)

8th Istanbul Biennial, Turkey (2003)

selected collections

Musée d'Art Contemporain de Lyon, Lyon, France

Museum of Modern Art, Rio de Janeiro (MAM Rio),

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego, USA

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Malibu, USA

Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

brasília rgb double trouble 6 propaganda 11 tumulto turbilhão 15 terrain de proximité 16 casa de vento 18 vento 19 dynamo! 21 a longa noite 23 light corrections – the doors light corrections – minus green 25 norte, sul, leste, oeste 26 la temperatura del aire 31 mood disorder 32 fundos 37 conversion conversation cromoteísmo 42 el resplendor wave (for choja machi) sala de exposição parede-favo uma boa ordem 52 turkish delight

> degradê sp gabinete

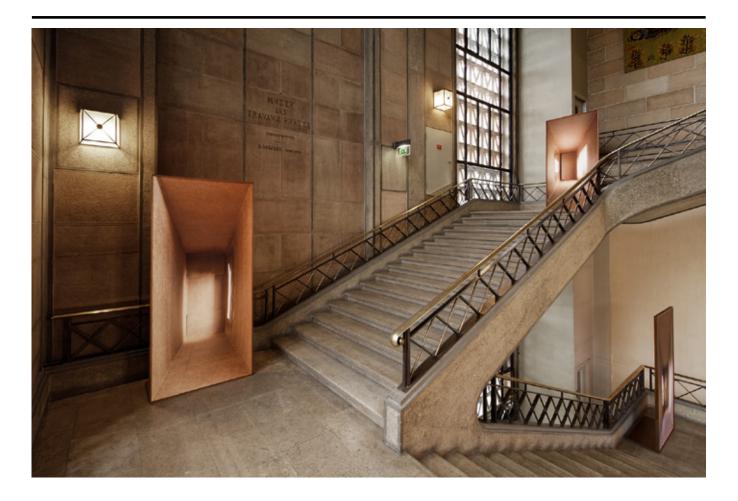
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brasília rgb 2022 permanent installation Exploratorium / SESI Lab Brasília, Brazil

This 2022 installation, conceived for Exploratorium/SESI Lab in Brasília, was designed to occupy the interior of the former headquarters of the Touring Club in the federal capital of Brazil, whose building was designed by Oscar Niemeyer. As is usual in her poetics, Lucia Koch dialogues with pre-existing architectural spaces, sometimes designed by renowned figures, producing sensory and environmental experiences. In this case, the artist installed twelve sliding panels of laminated glass with filters in green, red and blue, the primary colors of light, in front of the west façade of the building. With the incidence of light, the colors are projected inside the space. Because they are sliding panels, they can be manipulated by the public. In this way, the chromatic experience created inside the space varies, both due to the variation of external light throughout the day, as well as the new configurations experienced by the viewer.





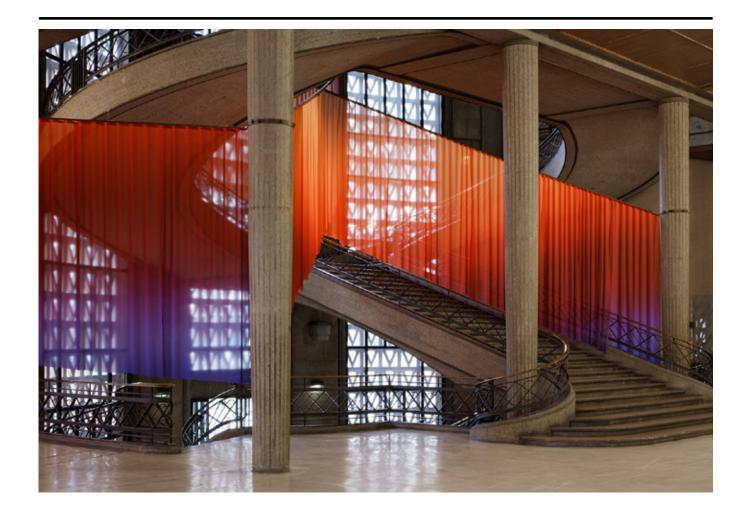


double trouble 2022

solo exhibition Palais d'Iéna, Paris, France

Lucia Koch's in situ project for the Palais d'léna, head of the CESE, is part of this dual logic and echoes, in a non-literal way, our troubled times, where order and chaos compete for socio-political space. On the one hand, its labyrinthine, irregular, and penetrable plan invites an erratic course. The monumental installation, made of textiles with printed gradients, unfolds in multiple diagonals and heckles the orthonormal clarity thought by architect Auguste Perret more than 80 years ago. On the other hand, a singular chromatic phenomenon is at play here, born of the infinite combinations of the unstable natural light, of pigments transferred to these translucent filters that unfold in real time and space, and make this historical site the crucible of an experience that is at once optical, tactile and motor.





The massive installation of printed fabrics crossing through and nearly filling the totality of the space, from the Hypostyle room to the big staircases, literally immerses the architecture and its visitors under the waves of immense color gradients. The show is completed by *trompe-l'oeil* photographs by the artist, which relate to the scale of the Palais site and to its moucharabieh patterns filtering the light, as well as to its masscolored concrete surfaces.

propaganda 2021

installation Instituto de Arte Contemporânea de Inhotim, Brumadinho, Brazil

PROPAGANDA is part of the Território Específico [Specific Territory] program, in which artists are invited to develop new works based on their experiences with the institution and its surroundings. In this project, Koch simultaneously occupies spaces in the city of Brumadinho and at Instituto Inhotim, reflecting on the place of art and the logic of information dissemination maneuvers. The work consists of interventions on billboards, which bring photographs of empty boxes and packages that the artist collected in the cities of Brumadinho and Belo Horizonte. The images were then presented on advertising spaces that already existed in Brumadinho, which were rented to the project during the entire duration of the exhibition, and on billboards built especially for the occasion, installed in Inhotim.

installation view PROPAGANDA, 2021 Brumadinho, Brazil

→ installation view
PROPAGANDA, 2021
Instituto de Arte Contemporânea de Inhotim, Brumadinho, Brazil





tumulto turbilhão 2019

solo exhibition Nara Roesler, São Paulo, Brazil

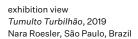
The two artworks that give the exhibition its title set the scene for the works that compose the show. Occupying the gallery's main room, Tumulto [Tumult] is the interlacing of diagonal curtains that separate the space, generating a cluster of semi-transparent layers. Some of the curtains appear to traverse the wall, expanding beyond the exhibition rooms. This calculated lack of order is the driving force behind the exhibition. The counterpoint is provided by Turbilhão [Turmoil], a sort of anti-display window. The exhibition room's large glass window is entirely filled with a red trellis, and a sizeable circular cutout from the same trellis moves slowly with the help of an engine, creating a moiré effect that can be seen from both inside and outside the gallery.

exhibition view Tumulto Turbilhão, 2019 Nara Roesler, São Paulo, Brazil

→
exhibition view
Tumulto Turbilhão, 2019
Nara Roesler, São Paulo, Brazil

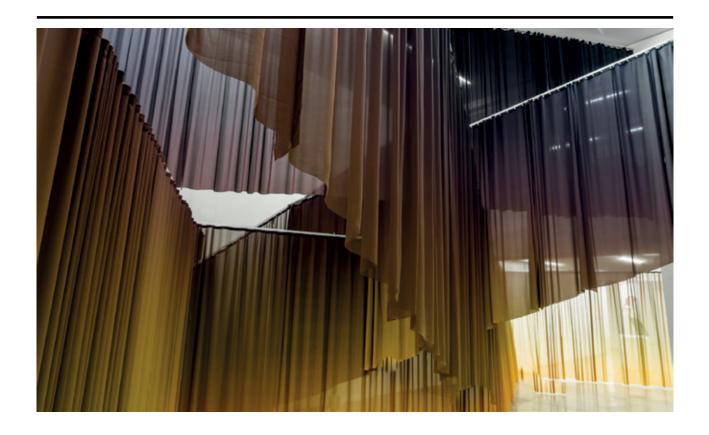








exhibition view Tumulto Turbilhão, 2019 Nara Roesler, São Paulo, Brazil



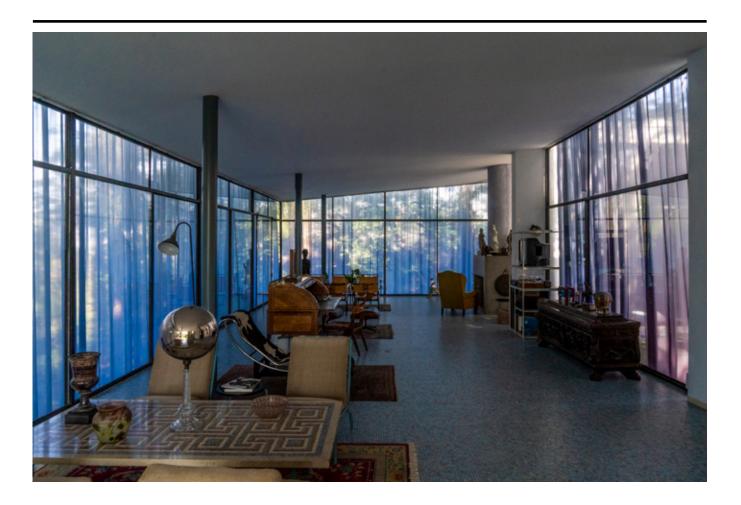
According to curator Tiago Mesquita 'This calculated lack of order is the driving force behind the exhibition. The counterpoint is provided by Turbilhão, a sort of antidisplay-window. Tumulto features a more involved and baroque form. It's built from gradient fabrics going from bright yellow to dark violet. It extends beyond the building's floors and walls to create different light reactions in different places, disregarding architectural unity. The piece blows off colors here and there to check whether the lethargy is really unconquerable. The gradient tones signify the degrading of homogeneous lighting. The artist strives to render visible these minor cracks, perceptible shifts that we allow to slip by, at a time when reality appears to impose itself in a blunt way. In each and every piece, there's a narrative meaning to light. It's about the shutting down of possibilities, a defeat without an epopee. The work insists on fissure, on change, on permanent transformation, even though it implies no guarantee at all. By staying in touch with the daily passing of time, the changes of the day, the transitions of light, the people, perhaps we might conquer the turmoil.'

terrain de proximité 2019

installation 1st Rabat Biennale, Rabat, Morocco

The 1st Rabat Biennale was exclusively dedicated to female artists. On this occasion, which also marked the artist's first commissioned project in Africa, Lucia Koch developed a body of work derived from her earlier series *Fundos*, taking photographs of the exterior and interior of a box of Henry's Biscuit, an iconic local brand, and displaying them on billboards around the city.





casa de vento 2019

installation Casa de Vidro, São Paulo, Brazil

In this work, Lucia Koch intervened in the emblematic Casa de Vidro's facade in São Paulo, the modernist architect Lina Bo Bardi's first project in Brazil. Outside of what is currently the Bardi Institute's headquarters, Koch installed—on its continuous glass window panes—filter-curtains printed with amber and blue shades, emulating temperature variations related to the different colors of the day's natural light.

Casa de vento, 2019 print on chic to chic fabric variable dimensions

installation view photo © Erika Mayumi

→
installation view
photo © Bruna Guerra

→→
installation view
Casa de vento, 2019
print on chic to chic fabric
variable dimensions



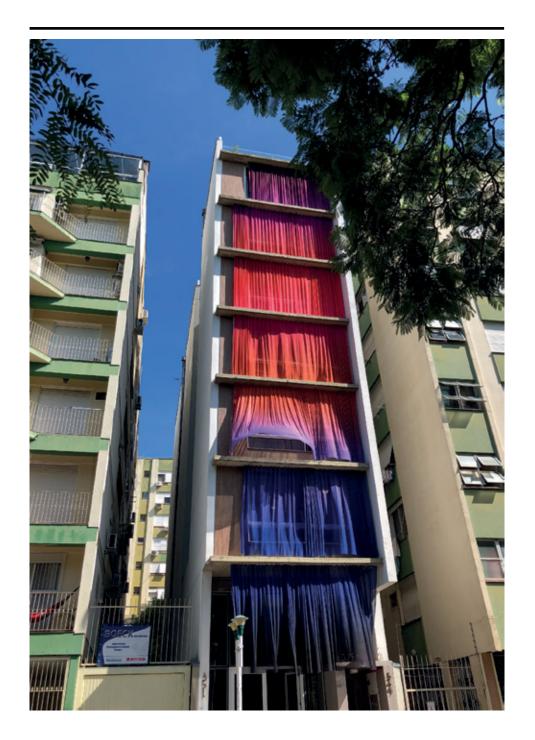
vento 2019

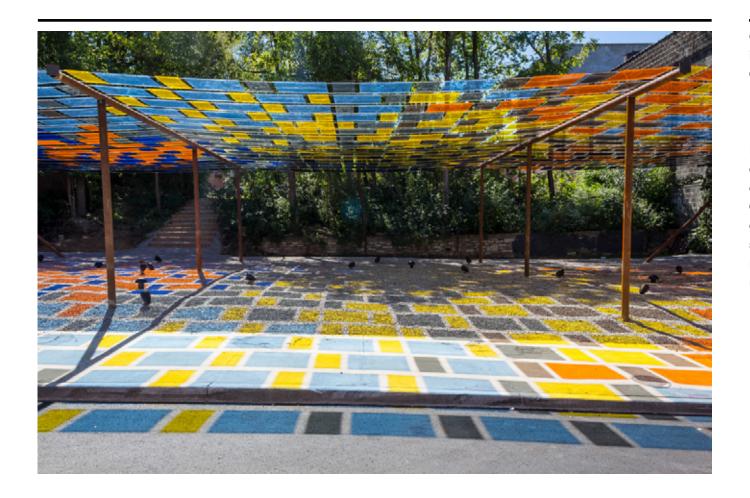
installation

Ed. Península, Porto Alegre, Brazil

Vento is a public intervention by Lucia Koch in the Peninsula Building, located in Porto Alegre. For her intervention, Koch installed curtains on each floor of the building, creating a unique chromatic transition when viewed from the street. As they are produced in translucent fabric and printed only on the outside, ensuring less saturation and greater transparency when viewed from the inside, these filter curtains transform the ambient light of each apartment, promoting changing color effects according to the interaction of residents, climatic conditions and weather.

'For Vento [Wind], she hanged tulle curtains from the façades of every apartment in Porto Alegre's Península Building. From the ground to the sky, like a mystical Caspar David Friedrich painting, the colors imprinted on the fabrics ranged from pitch black to bright red. The neighborly spirit cheered people up and made the project possible, bringing dazzling light to Porto Alegre as the year began', asserts curator Tiago Mesquita.





dynamo! 2018

intervenção Open Spaces Festival, Kansas City, EUA

Instalação temporária em terreno baldio do 18th & Vine Jazz District, entre a sede do jornal The Call e o antigo Hey Hey Club. Cobertura com filtros de cor acrílicos, estrutura com cabos de aço e 6 faixas sonoras compostas e gravadas por Domenico Lancellotti. (falantes e subwoofers instalados no solo criando "bolhas" de som).

vista da intervenção Dynamo!, 2018 Open Spaces Festival, Kansas City, EUA



a longa noite 2018

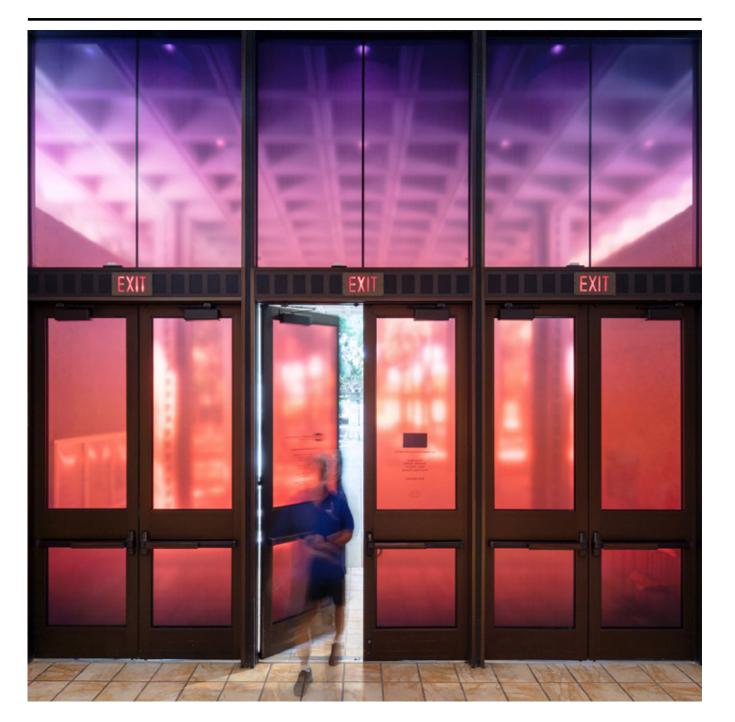
installation Sesc Pompeia, São Paulo, Brazil

For the 3rd edition of the *Plano* expandido project, a Sesc Pompeia's exhibition program focusing on propositions that question the graphic language, Lucia Koch proposed *A longa noite*. The work consisted of a color filter that covers the vast glass roof of the theater hall and hundreds of redpainted wooden shafts arranged in apparent disorder. Their colors stood out in the violet light environment produced by the filter.



installation view A longa noite, 2015 SESC Pompeia, São Paulo, Brazil





light corrections – the doors 2017 light corrections – minus green 2017

installation

Condemned To Be Modern, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG), Los Angeles, EUA

The Condemned to Be Modern motto evokes a critical approach to modernist architecture history in Latin America, captured through a collective exhibition curated by Clara Kim. Lucia Koch's participation consisted of an intervention located at Barnsdall Park, where she added color correction filters in shades of pink and magenta to the street lamps, coloring their surrounding vegetation. In addition, she placed color gradient filters on the entrance doors and windows of the institution's building, altering the perception from both the inside and outside.

Light Corrections - The Doors, 2017

installation view

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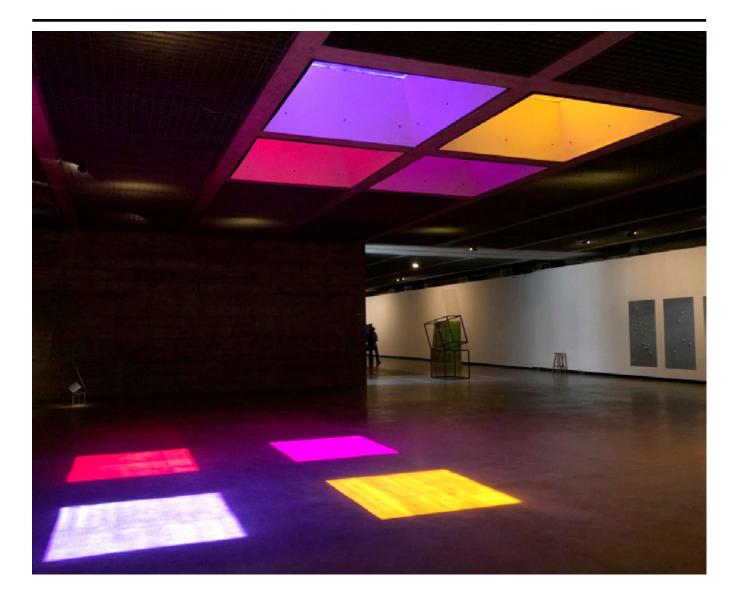
Light Corrections - Minus Green, 2017

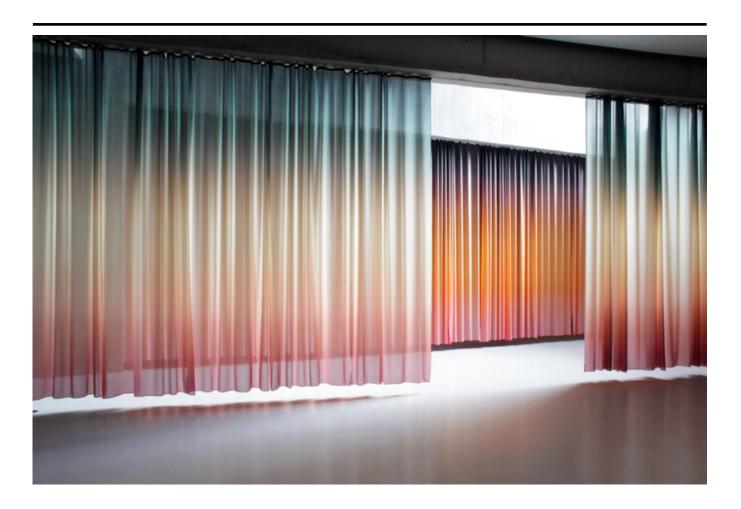
installation view



norte, sul, leste, oeste 2016 installation *Transferência e reflexo*, Museu Brasileiro de Escultura e Ecologia (MuBE), São Paulo, Brazil

Lucia Koch developed a site-specific intervention titled Norte, Sul, Leste, Oeste for the group exhibition Transparência e reflexo, which Cauê Alves curated at the Museu Brasileiro de Escultura e Ecologia (MuBE), designed by architect Paulo Mendes da Rocha. The artist's installation consisted of ceiling filters of different colors placed in the four skylights on the exhibition space. The work's name refers to the shape of the structure whose vertices are directed to the four cardinal points.

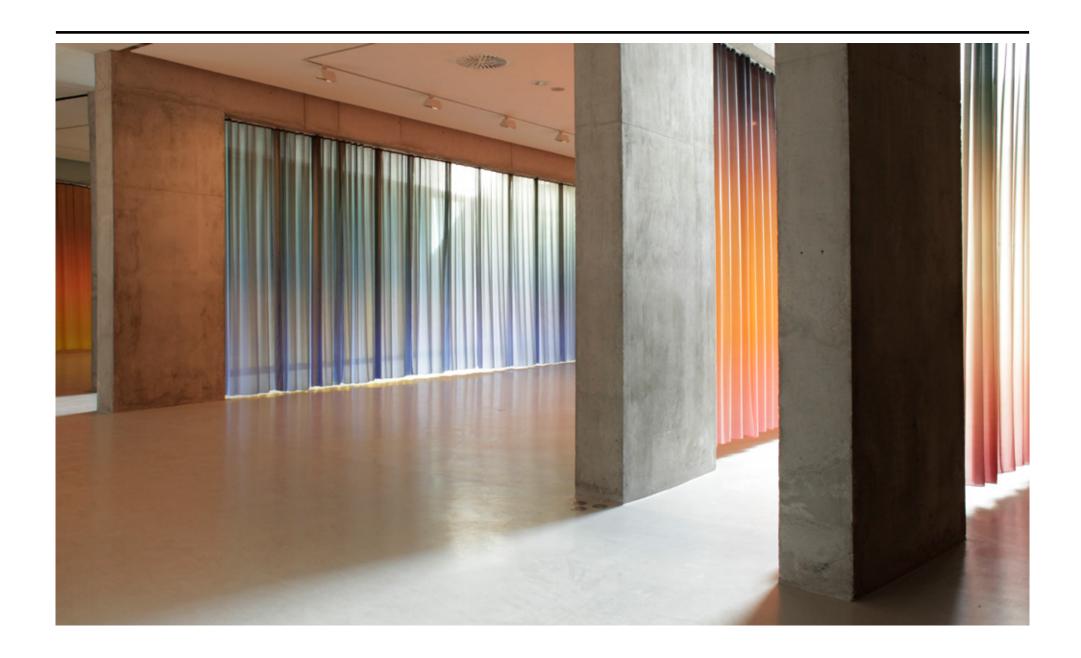




la temperatura del aire 2015 solo exhibition

Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Caja de Burgos (CAB), Burgos, Spain

The installation conceived for the solo exhibition La temperatura del aire, at the Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Caja de Burgos (CAB), consisted of six wide silk curtains printed in different colored gradients. The public was invited to walk and move through this set of translucent layers of chromatic transitions. The artist also showed videos in which light emerges as an essential element. In Cachoeira (2011), water and light dance together in a colorful fountain, while in Night Fever (2010), which is part of the series Fundos, the artist seeks to expand the scale of cardboard boxes and bags, by using properties of photography as a means of changing our perception of reality.



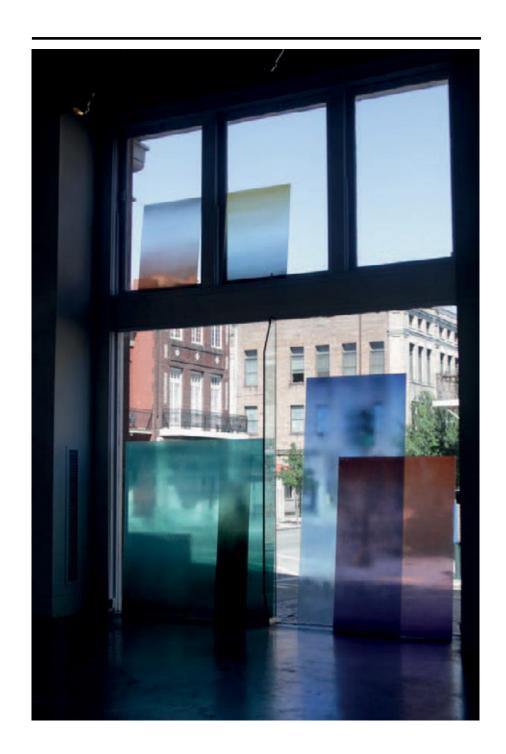


mood disorder 2014

installation

Prospect.3: Notes for Now, Contemporary Arts Center (CAC), New Orleans, USA

For Prospect 3, Lucia Koch proposed an installation using a selection of 23 glass and acrylic sheets, leftover materials from the Contemporary Arts Center itself. With an airbrush, the artist painted the plates with a variety of transparent color gradients. The pieces were arranged against the glass walls and windows of the exhibition space as if they still waiting for a final location.



installation view
Mood Disorder, 2014
"Notes from Now" Prospect 3,
Contemporary Art Center,
New Orleans , USA

installation view

Mood Disorder, 2014

"Notes from Now" Prospect 3,
Contemporary Art Center,
New Orleans, USA





Goods, 2020 pigment print on cotton paper, UV matte laminate 110 x 190 cm | 43.3 x 74.8 in photo © Erika Mayumi

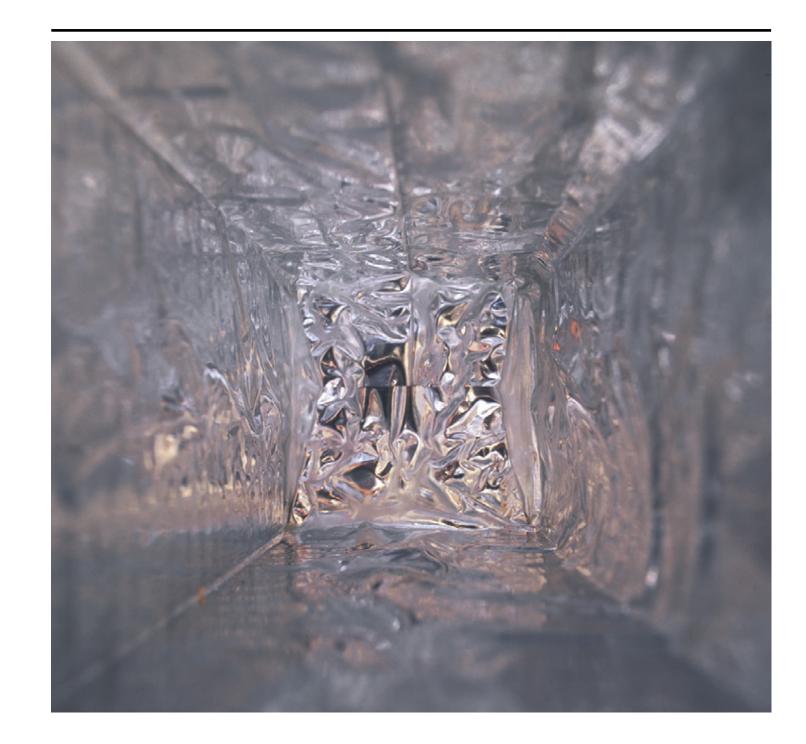
→
Helmet_3, 2020
pigment print on cotton paper,
UV matte laminate
110 x 176 cm | 43.3 x 69.3 in
photo © Erika Mayumi

fundos 2001-current photography

In this photo series, Lucia Koch explores the architectural aspects of everyday objects. The artist photographs the inside of cardboard boxes of food and beverages. According to curator Moacir dos Anjos 'by upsetting the expected hierarchy of scales between these objects and the surfaces occupied by their images in this series, Lucia Koch momentarily disassociates the photographs from their immediate references.' Each works names are those of the products they used to carry, becoming a sort of traces of their previous use. These images, usually printed in large dimensions when arranged in the exhibition space, become a virtual extensions of it. The transformation offered by the change of scale and the perspective angle creates the impression of an invented place the packaging holes and openings reinforce the architectural illusion. 'But besides challenging our usual ways of relating with the space, these photographs also depend on an outside source of light to bring to life the dark inner corners of the boxes; [they] acquire meanings through light; meanings that cannot be fully expressed by mean other than the ones proper to the pieces themselves', wrote the curator Moacir dos Anjos.







←
Extra-Strong Coffee (Fundos), 2011
light jet print
248 x 391 cm | 98 x 154 in

exhibition view

Arquiteturas do imaginário,
Galeria Roesler Rio de Janeiro,
Brasil, 2019
photo © Pat Kilgore

Creamcracker, from the series Fundos, 2004 photographic print on cotton paper 260 x 240 cm | 102.4 x 94.5 in



New Development, from the series Fundos, 2011 inkjet print on cotton paper 280 x 700 cm | 110.2 x 275.6 in



vista da instalação Conversation, 2013 16 chapas de acrílico 200 x 100 cm 11º Bienal de Sharjah, Sharjah, Emirados Árabes Unidos

→ vista da instalação
Conversation, 2013
16 chapas de acrílico
200 x 100 cm
11ª Bienal de Sharjah, Sharjah,
Emirados Árabes Unidos

conversion 2013 conversation 2013 installation

11th Sharjah Biennial – Re:emerge. Towards a New Cultural Cartography, Sharjah, UAE

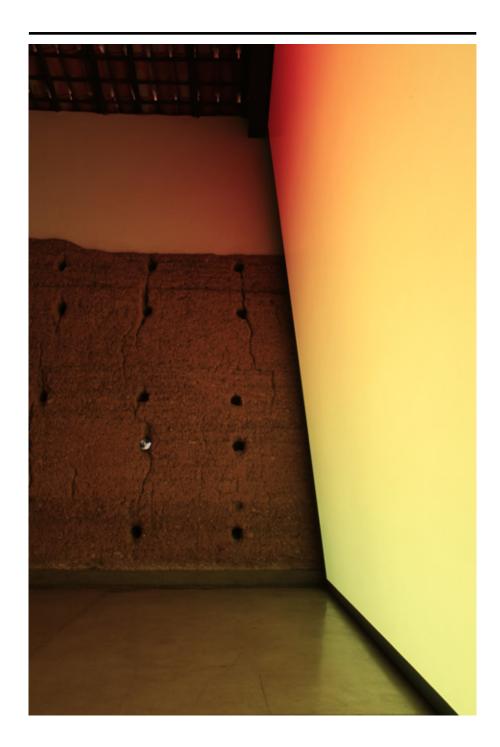
For the 11th edition of the Sharjah Biennial, Lucia Koch made two installations in local historical buildings. At Bait Al Hurma (or Bait Habib Shalawani), the artist installed Conversion. In the courtyard of the small annex she makes a kind of roof with pivoting panels each one with different color correction cinema filters, set in different angles.

Conversation, was designed for Bait Al Serkal, a 19th-century building. The eight-door sequence in the long corridor that leads to the balcony has been replaced by colorful panels made in double layer transparent acrylic. The panels show patterns inspired by some structures present in the domestic architecture of United Arab Emirates and Brazil.

→→
vista da instalação
Conversion, 2013
instalação site-specific
dimensões variáveis
11ª Bienal de Sharjah, Sharjah,
Emirados Árabes Unidos







cromoteísmo 2012

installation Capela do Morumbi, São Paulo, Brazil

Cromoteísmo transformed the Chapel of Morumbi, in São Paulo, into a space of color celebration. Lucia Koch replaced the altar with a large, translucent colored canvas that divided the chapel. Printed with a gradient that moved from yellow to red and backlit by reflectors installed on the altar, the panel emulated solar lighting. Because of the venue's religious character and the work's symbolism, several 'baptisms' were held in the chapel on the two Sundays, as well as spontaneously on other occasions.







el resplandor 2010

installation

iAfuera! Arte en espacios públicos, El Panal,

Córdoba, Argentina

On the occasion of the 2010 *iAfuera!* edition, Lucia Koch was invited to occupy El Panal, currently the Centro Cívico de la Província de Córdoba. Using the corridors of *The Shining*, by Stanley Kubrick, as a chromatic reference, Koch created *El resplandor* (the title of the film in Argentina). The work lined the courtyard's inner area with cotton voile curtains printed with color gradients transiting from ocher yellow at the bottom, similar to the floor coloring, to a deep blue at the top, like that of the sky visible through the open ceiling. The five meters high curtains did not reach the floor and had slashes that suggested constant movement.

El Resplandor, 2010 inked cotton voile curtains

installation view





wave (for choja machi) 2010

urban intervention 1st Aichi Triennale, Nagoya, Japan

On the occasion of the 1st Aichi Triennial in Nagoya, many artists were invited to occupy spaces in Choja-Machi, a traditional textile wholesale district. Lucia Koch's *Wave* not only intervened through awnings and backlit panels scattered around the neighborhood with its characteristic gradients, but also consisted of fabrics (cotton, silk, satin) and umbrellas printed in tonal gradations inspired by *ukiyo-e* prints. All these artifacts were on display in a small empty store set up as a showroom, while also multiplying throughout the city when its residents and tourists used them.



Sunbrellas (Wave for Choja Machi), 2010 photography, inkjet print on cotton paper 22 x 80 cm | 8.7 x 31.5 in



Sunbrellas (Wave for Choja Machi), 2010 photography, inkjet print on cotton paper

intervention view

Wave for Choja Machi, 2010 photography, inkjet print on cotton paper

intervention view

Wave for Choja Machi, 2010 photography, inkjet print on cotton paper

intervention view





sala de exposição 2006 parede-favo 2006 uma boa ordem 2006

installation

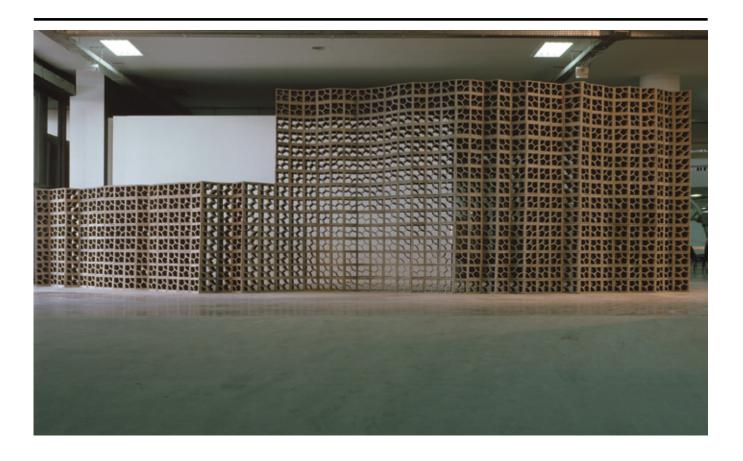
27th Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

Lucia Koch participated in the 27th Bienal de São Paulo with three installations that proposed new relationships with the surrounding spaces. In *Sala de exposição*, the artist used perforated pegboard panels to reproduce the white walls of art exhibition spaces. Instead of conventionally displaying artworks, *Sala de exposição* only showed the lights filtered through its structure, which formed geometric patterns and problematized the relationship between the gaze and its object.



In Parede-favo, Koch removed three glass panels from the Bienal Pavilion wall and replaced them with small honeycomb-shaped cobogós. This kind of 'breathing area' allowed the scents and breezes of Ibirapuera Park to flow into the exhibition space.





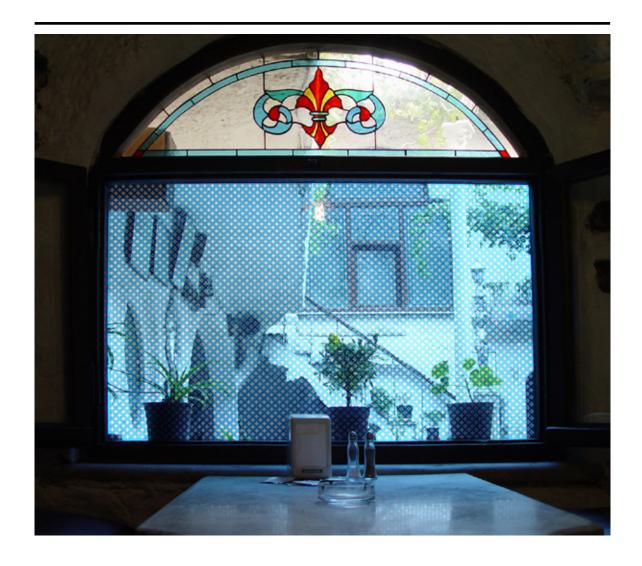
Finally, *Uma boa ordem*, in collaboration with Mexican artist Héctor Zamora, employed elements of the traditional manufacture and application of cobogós in Brazilian architecture. The installation consisted of a wall composed of customized cobogós, with different angles and depths, arranged in a wavy pattern.

Lucia Koch and Héctor Zamora Uma boa ordem, 2006 clay brick modified with 9, 18 and 24 degrees sections variable dimensions

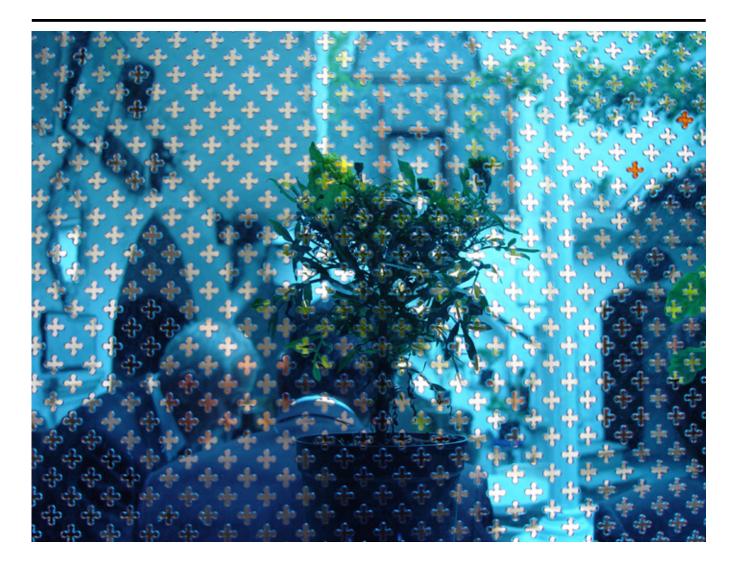
turskish delight 2003

installation 8th Istanbul Biennial – Poetic Justice, Istanbul, Turkey

Turkish Delight was Lucia Koch's proposal for the 8th Istanbul Biennial. The work occupied Cağaloğlu Hamami, one of the city's main Turkish baths (hamam). In those places the architecture organizes the spaces and conducts the public experience by separating women and men at the entrance. Each in their own environment, they undress, bathe, talk, drink tea, and rest, reuniting again at the hamam's bar.



vista da instalação Turkish Delight, 2003 8ª Bienal de Istambul, Istambul, Turquia



For the intervention, Koch installed acrylic and metal mashrabiya on the windows between the courtyard and the bar area. These new hollow color filters, the artist's first experiments with acrylic laser-cut patterns, have become recurrent in her work ever since. In the hararets, natural light was altered by color filters through blue and violet (somewhat twilight) in the female and yellow and amber (more solar) in the male. Curator Felipe Chaimovich describes this practice in the following terms: "Lucia Koch places us in living experiments in which we re-discover sociability through the manipulation of the visual experience of color. Her work is organized around two axes: the diversity of visual fi lters and sources of illumination. Lucia builds ordered chromatic series using acrylic, fi Im or glass fi Iters. Then she lights them up, either artificially or naturally with the passage of sun in the sky as it changes according to the weather and the season. In this way, she alters the standards of organic perception that the observer has of the world, immediately awakening him or her to normally invisible features of it."

degradê sp 2004

installation

Pintura reencarnada, Paço das Artes,
São Paulo, Brazil

Degradê SP, part of the group exhibition Pintura reencarnada, at Paço das Artes in São Paulo, was Lucia Koch's first work involving translucent surfaces printed with a gradient based on colors of the sky. The tarpaulin stretched across the institution's main entrance had colors transitioning from clear blue to lead-gray. Following the creation of this work, the artist continued to explore filter screens in numerous subsequent projects, always seeking to strategically occupy the architectural spaces where she exhibits her work.



Degradê SP, 2004

installation view





gabinete 1999

instalação

2ª Bienal do Mercosul, Porto Alegre, Brasil

This installation is made up of two rooms, one on top of the other, and one lighter than the otherset in a half-destroyed old boat shop with slatted walls that let the sunlight reach through the windows in the afternoon. Lucia Koch installed eleven colored acrylic filters in all the gaps, windows and empty doors of this small area in the corner of a large wooden shed, which was one of the spaces that made up the 2nd Mercosul Biennial. As the windows faced west, the sunlight through the space throughout the afternoon, changing color at the end of the day according to the sunlight and eventually disappearing. The passage of time was projected in the space by the color-shadows, which were sometimes distorted on the floor, or thickened by the several layers of filter

nara roesler

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