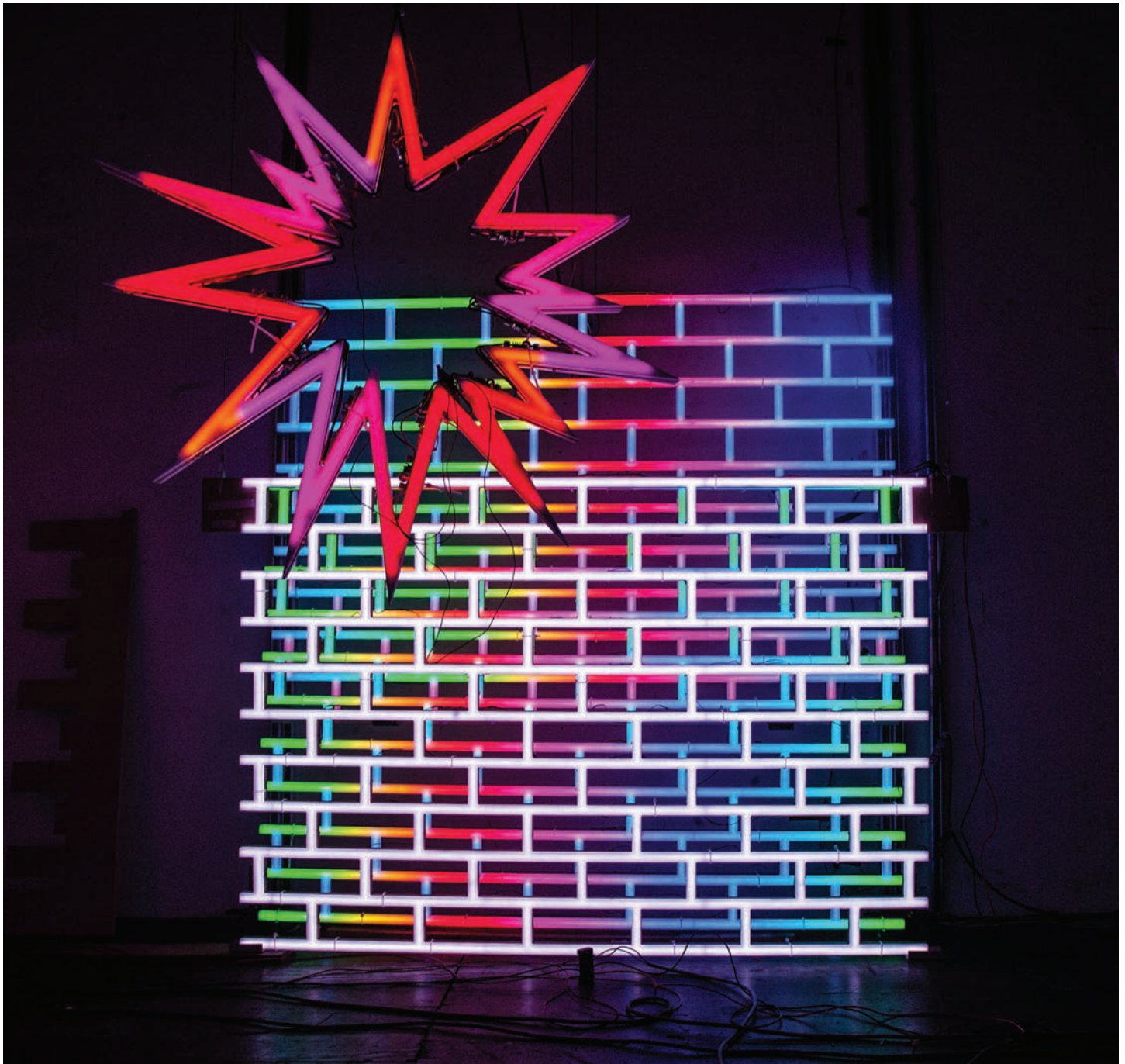


José Carlos Martinat

English



Pérez Art Museum Miami

American Echo Chamber

December 4, 2018–January 26, 2020

José Carlos Martinat

b. 1974, Lima, Peru; lives in Lima

American Echo Chamber, 2018

Motors, LEDs, microcontroller, and radio module

Dimensions variable

Courtesy the artist and Revolver Galería

For PAMM's double-height gallery, José Carlos Martinat created *American Echo Chamber* (2018), a commissioned installation that represents how ideologies are amplified and reinforced in the current social and political landscape. Inspired by artisanal pyrotechnic castle fireworks from Lima, this large-scale work is composed of mechanical light sculptures that collectively generate a dramatic and entertaining space for visual consumption. The sculptures are inspired by both American and Peruvian symbols ranging from historical images such as the political cartoon "Join, or Die" attributed to founding father Benjamin Franklin to popular Internet memes, some related to violence, manipulation, racism, or migration. The sculptures incorporate simple movements, emphasizing an overall kinetic quality, as well as LED screens that show real-time Internet search responses to the question: "The real problem in America is?" By creating a space that amplifies the consumption of these symbols and information, Martinat compares the contemporary political scene to an echo chamber, emphasizing a dynamic in which people seek out media outlets that reinforce their beliefs as an unconscious exercise of validation and prejudice.

Martinat, one of the most internationally exhibited Latin American artists of his generation, creates multimedia installations and sculptures that incorporate materials from everyday life and virtual worlds. Informed by the sociopolitical landscape, his works are inspired by robotics, street culture, and Internet culture, bringing diverse aesthetics into the gallery. Working with a programmer based in Lima, he uses software that searches the Internet in real time for specific themes, illustrating virtual narratives. The results of these searches are integrated and transmitted into his works around the world. Fascinated by interactive technology, Martinat creates works that encourage the viewer's physical engagement. His practice highlights society's complex dynamics and intersections of technology, politics, and cyber social spaces.

Biography

José Carlos Martinat (b. 1974, Lima) has had solo exhibitions at Revolver Galería, Buenos Aires; Galeria Leme, São Paulo; Carmen Araujo Arte, Caracas; Galeria Patricia Ready, Santiago; and Galeria Baginski, Lisbon. His work has been included in group exhibitions at Sala Alcalá 31, Madrid; Museo de Arte de Zapopan, Mexico; Cuenca Biennial, Ecuador; Mercosul Biennial, Porto Alegre, Brazil; Havana Biennial; Gervasuti Foundation, Venice; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Saatchi Gallery, London; Museo de arte de Lima; Tate Modern, London; Shanghai Biennial; Museum of Latin American Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami; and the Centro Cultural de España, Lima. His work is included in the collections of the Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo; Museo de Arte de Lima; Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires; Museum of Modern Art, New York; and Tate Britain, London.

José Carlos Martinat: American Echo Chamber is organized by PAMM Associate Curator María Elena Ortiz with support provided by Revolver Galería. Ongoing support for PAMM's Project Galleries from Knight Foundation is also gratefully acknowledged.



Image: José Carlos Martinat. *American Echo Chamber*, 2018. Motors, LEDs, microcontroller, and radio module. Dimensions variable.
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