

## Oscar Murillo: By Means of a Detour

A unique new book that documents one frenetic year in the life of Colombian artist Oscar Murillo

**With contributions by Oscar Murillo, Andrew Nairne, Olu Odukoya, Leonie Radine and Bettina Steinbrügge**



Oscar Murillo, *By Means of a Detour*, front cover.

*By Means of a Detour* is a new publication by the Colombian artist Oscar Murillo, designed by the artist's long-term collaborator Olu Odukoya. It is co-published by Kettle's Yard and Kunstverein in Hamburg, and follows Murillo's projects, performances, thoughts and travels across one year. From his solo exhibition *Violent Amnesia* at Kettle's Yard in Cambridge, the book follows him to Croatia, Shanghai, New York, London, Margate, Munich and beyond, to his solo exhibition *Horizontal Darkness In Search of Solidarity* at Kunstverein in Hamburg.

Oscar Murillo writes: *"This book was created to capture 2019. A year of my life, and the culmination of the first ten years of an art practice, of constant travel, of research, of making and work. Finding myself in Zagreb, Croatia, arriving from New York in the crazy cold and getting sick and traveling straight to Berlin to do a show..."*

*"The form of this book is a reflection of the frenetic nature of the experience of living through this one year. Its inconsistencies and roughness are the product of a collaboration with Olu Odukoya, whose anarchic and anti-authoritarian, as he calls it 'primitive', spirit have helped to allude to something true and real."*

Murillo's practice incorporates a variety of techniques and media including painting, performance, drawing, collaborative works, sculpture and sound, often using recycled materials and fragments collected from his

studio. Many of his works undergo multiple processes in the studio before being exhibited. Murillo's work reflects his own experience of displacement, and the social fallout of globalisation.

Oscar Murillo was born in Colombia in 1986 and lives and works in London. He is represented by David Zwirner.

ISBN: 9783960989592  
Pages: 336  
Format: Soft cover  
Languages: English and German  
Illustrations: 244 colour  
Dimensions: 300mm x 220mm  
RRP: £40.00 / €43.00

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Distribution: Europe: Buchhandlung Walter König; UK and Ireland: Cornerhouse Publications Ltd; Outside EU: D.A.P / Distributed Art Publishers, Inc, New York.

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The new publication has been designed by Olu Odukoya and co-published with Kunstverein in Hamburg.

## About Oscar Murillo

Oscar Murillo's (b. 1986) work constitutes a sustained and evolving investigation of notions of community, informed by cross-cultural personal ties, as well as the constant transnational movement that has become integral to his practice. Executed in a wide range of media including painting, installation, video work and actions, Murillo's work explores themes such as globalisation, production and consumption, and labour and migration, and challenges modes of address and display embedded in the contemporary art world. Murillo earned his BFA in 2007 from the University of Westminster, London, followed by his MFA in 2012 from the Royal College of Art, London. He joined David Zwirner in 2013 and had his inaugural exhibition, titled 'A Mercantile Novel', at the gallery in New York the following year. Murillo's works and projects have been the subject of solo exhibitions at prominent institutions worldwide. Recent presentations were held in 2017 at CAPC musée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux; Concorde, Paris; and the Yarat Contemporary Art Centre, Baku, Azerbaijan. In 2015 Murillo had solo shows at the Museo de Arte de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá; Centro Cultural Daoíz y Velarde, Madrid (part of ArcoColombia 2015); and Artpace, San Antonio, Texas.

## About Kettle's Yard

Kettle's Yard, part of the University of Cambridge, is one of Britain's best galleries – a beautiful and unique house with a distinctive modern art collection, and a gallery exhibiting modern and contemporary art. Supporting this is an established learning and community engagement programme, archive, and programme of chamber music concerts. In February 2018, Kettle's Yard reopened after a two-year redevelopment by architect Jamie Fobert. Kettle's Yard includes new exhibition galleries, generous education spaces, a café and welcome areas. Kettle's Yard's mission is to contribute to society by inspiring and engaging audiences through art, learning and research of the highest quality. We believe that great art should not be the privilege of the few, but for everyone. Our values reflect Kettle's Yard's creator Jim Ede's support for artists and belief in art's power to make us look again and change how we act in the world.

[www.kettlesyard.co.uk](http://www.kettlesyard.co.uk)

## About Kunstverein

Since 1817, the Kunstverein in Hamburg has been dedicated to the presentation and communication of upcoming, artistic positions of its time, serving as a platform for the constructive examination of new directions in art. The Kunstverein in Hamburg is dedicated to supporting those artists who produce work today and help design the cultural heritage of tomorrow. Setting its bearings by international developments in contemporary art, the program sets out to foster and present artistic experiments, which, framed by discussion, further advance the development of contemporary art exhibitions. As a location of artistic output, exhibition production, art education, and critical discourse, the Kunstverein has devoted itself to those artists who reveal new perspectives on social issues. They have set themselves the task of showing us a path out of the familiar, perhaps also a way towards formulating a different kind of co-existence, one in which a language is formed that helps overcome both economic and political differences.

[www.kunstverein.de](http://www.kunstverein.de)

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