

## German-Venezualien Art Exchange: The 8.th Velada Santa Lucia in Maracaibo/Venezuela

Date: 02-15-2008 06:58 PM CET

Category: [Arts & Culture](#)

Press release from: [White Trash Contemporary Hamburg](#)

Agency: WTC



WTC and holzhauer hamburg are proud to announce their participation in VELADA SANTA LUCIA, an annual art festival taking place in Maracaibo, Venezuela from March 7th to 10th 2008. As cutting edge galleries from Hamburg we were invited by the board of Velada Santa Lucia e.V., a non profit association dedicated to broaden cultural exchange between Venezuela and Germany, to curate an exhibition program for the Maracaibo art festival.

Velada Santa Lucia is a unique art experience. For the eighth year now home owners from the colonial downtown district of Zulia, a pitoresk downtown neighborhood in Maracaibo, will open their houses to local and international artists for three days in March. Their living rooms will become the gallery space for contemporary paintings, photography, sculptures, video installations and performances. This time 38 families will participate. Visitors will enter their houses and encounter fresh art in a setting far removed from the conventional museum and gallery environment.

This extraordinary exhibition draws thousands of spectators from near and far each year. An entire street is temporarily transformed into a nomadic art museum and an inspiring art happening.

Velada Santa Lucia started in in 200x in Maracaibo, the second largest city in Venezuela, and takes place once a year in March. The festival was conceived by the artist Clemencia Labin, who was born in Maracaibo and is living and working in Hamburg, Germany. She is the soul and driving force behind this exciting project. Right from the beginning she invited artists from Germany to participate. Over the years the festival has grown into an international showcase for curators from Canada, Germany, America and Spain who have been organizing exhibitions there. This year for the first time two young galleries from Hamburg will present their program in Maracaibo.

Under the title "HAUS" WTC will present five young artists:

Lilli Kuschel/Anna Fiedler - video (Berlin)  
Gabi Steinhäusser - photography (Hamburg)  
Seok Lee - painting (Hamburg)  
Ol Schmidt - photography (Berlin)  
Anna Lena Grau - sculpture (Hamburg)

holzhauer hamburg will bring along works of the following artists:

La Pacheca & Zoche – drawing und sculpture (Berlin)  
Clemens-Tobias Lange – photography (Hamburg)  
Paolo Moretto – painted photography (Hamburg)  
Tanja Hemm – sound sculpture (Nürnberg)

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White Trash Contemporary (WTC) was founded 2004 in New York with the aim to form a transatlantic artist network. The gallery represents young and underexposed artists and offers them an international platform. The gallery program encourages calculated risk taking and transgressive strategies to broaden the dialogue with established artistic positions. The main focus lies on “difficult art”: installation, sculpture and video.

#### Gallery History:

As a newcomer gallery in New York WTC set itself apart from the traditional gallery scene with changing exhibitions at unconventional venues in the Financial District, the East Village and Spanish Harlem. With the move to Germany in Spring 2005 the gallery deliberately chose Hamburg as its new location: The 200 sqm storefront at Ost-West-Straße 56 next to famous St. Nikolai church and Hamburg’s city hall was located right in the center of the city. WTC opened in December 2005 with “VideoNow!”, a group show with new and groundbreaking video works by artists from Bulgaria, Germany, Finland and the United States.

With its steady exhibition schedule and cutting edge program the gallery quickly gained recognition among artists, curators and collectors. The German art magazine ART notes in July, 2007:

“A lot is happening in some (Hamburg) neighborhoods long neglected in terms of art and life. If you walk along the river Elbe towards the old center of town you’ll find White Trash Contemporary. Since one and a half years Nils Grossien is staging an exciting program with international photography, video, installation, sculpture and painting in his gallery across the street from Nikolai church. His openings - whether with a “Mobile Blues Club” or a temporary “American bar” – are legendary already. Even curators from out of town institutions like Kunstmuseum Stuttgart or Kunsthalle Wien are coming to make discoveries here.”

In Spring 2007 the gallery moved to its current location at Admiraltätsstraße 71, a landmark old industrial complex in the city center and the prime address for contemporary art galleries in Hamburg.

[You can find this press release here](#)