

October 2012
For immediate release

TEMPORARY EXHIBITION

Tracey Emin / How It Feels

November 16, 2012 - February 25, 2013. Gallery 3 (1st floor)

Opening: Thursday, November 15 7pm

Curated by Philip Larratt-Smith

Organised with the collaboration of British Council

Malba – Fundación Costantini is pleased to announce *Tracey Emin / How It Feels*, the first museum exhibition of the celebrated British artist in the Americas. The show features five videos produced between 1995 and 2000: *Why I Never Became a Dancer*, 1995; *How It Feels*, 1996; *Homage to Edvard Munch and All My Dead Children*, 1998; *Riding for a Fall*, 1998; and *Love is a Strange Thing*, 2000.

Tracey Emin (London, 1963) is one of the most celebrated and controversial artists working in the United Kingdom today. Intensely personal and emotional, her work has an immediacy and authenticity that is unique among contemporary artists. **How It Feels** will introduce Emin to the Argentinian public by presenting five of her videoworks. *“Taken as a whole, her output amounts to an attempt to capture the flow of lived experience. The various mediums allow her to be conscious and selfreflective on one hand and totally uninhibited on the other”*, explains Philip Larratt-Smith, curator of the exhibition.

Tracey Emin began making videos in the 1990s when she was an emerging artist among what later came to be known as the YBAs (Young British Artists). Emin distinguished herself from her peers right away for her masterful ability to tell the story of her own life with clarity and brutal honesty. The unique combination of assured performance and exhibitionistic acting out that defines her artistic production and public persona, and that later fuelled her rise to a celebrity status that is unmatched by any other living British artist, is on full display in these seminal works.

The five videos in the checklist for **How It Feels** have been selected with a view to highlighting the range of Emin’s voice, which is by turns romantic, disabused, vulgar, and humorous. The lyrical beauty and poetic mood of her imagery is balanced out by the exploration of taboo subject matter, which Emin discusses with her trademark candour: her early discovery of sex, her abortions, gender politics, and class structures.

In the words of the curator: *“Seduction and love hold out the possibility of redemption for Emin. Love is a force that has the power to transform her. To be in love is to be in a heightened state of awareness, dependency, and extreme vulnerability. All of Emin’s art can be seen as a bid for psychic integrity. It is also a strategy to secure her position as the love object”*.

On the occasion of this exhibition, Malba has published a major catalogue—with the collaboration of British Council—that offers the first in-depth exploration of Emin’s video work. Available in Spanish and English versions, the catalogue features a full-colour plate section and transcripts of the films, an essay by Larratt-Smith (“Mighty

Real: A Hysteric in the Age of Pop Conceptualism”), an appreciation by artist and author Fernanda Laguna (“What There Is”), and a conversation between Emin and Larratt-Smith amply illustrated with images of Emin’s life and work.

Finally, Malba is pleased to announce that, in collaboration with the press Mansalva, it will publish a companion volume, *Proximity of Love*, which brings together a selection of thirty-three of the columns which Emin wrote between 2005 and 2009 for the British newspaper The Independent. This literary work, which reveals another aspect of Emin’s total artistic project, has been specially translated into Spanish for the first time by Cecilia Pavón. *Proximity of Love* will be the first in a series of joint publications between Malba and Mansalva that will present essays, diaries, and other literary works by or about artists featured in Malba’s exhibition program.

How It Feels will be the first in a new series of projects for Gallery 3 that present a specific body of work or proposal by a major contemporary artist as part of Malba’s expanded international programme.

CV

Tracey Emin was born in London in 1963, and studied at Maidstone College of Art and the Royal College of Art, London. Her art is one of disclosure, using her life events as inspiration for works ranging from painting, drawing, video and installation, to photography, needlework and sculpture. In 2007 Emin represented Britain at the 52nd Venice Biennale, was made a Royal Academician, and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the Royal College of Art. During the Edinburgh Festival in 2008, Emin’s survey exhibition “20 Years” opened at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and then travelled to the Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga, Spain and the Kunstmuseum Bern, Switzerland. In May 2011, Emin had a major solo exhibition at the Hayward, London, “Love Is What You Want,” and was made Professor of Drawing at the Royal Academy of Arts, London. Emin currently lives and works in London.

Exhibition-Related Activities

Artist’s Talk: Tracey Emin in conversation with Philip Larratt-Smith and Fernando M. Peña

Friday, November 16, 6:00 p.m.

Auditorium. Free to the general public*

The encounter will take place in English with simultaneous interpretation provided.

The artist will give a book-signing following the talk.

* The tickets will be able to get from Monday, November 5, at the reception of the museum

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