

## News Release from Milton Keynes Gallery

10 Jun – 23 Jul 06

### Carlos Bunga

Admission Free

Preview: 9 Jun | 17.30 – 20.00 | All press and media welcome

Supported by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation



Carlos Bunga  
'Elba Benitez Project', 2005.  
Image by Luís Asín Studio. Images courtesy Elba Benitez Gallery, Madrid

The first opportunity in the UK to see work by Portuguese artist Carlos Bunga will be at Milton Keynes Gallery (MK G) this June. Bunga has been gaining recognition for his ephemeral, site-specific installations and has been commissioned to make a new work for MK G.

Bunga's installations are complex, labyrinthine structures built from corrugated cardboard and held together with packing tape. Using multiple sheets of cardboard, Bunga creates a series of interlinking rooms, into which light filters through chimneys or through gaps in the ceiling. As the construction grows and extends, it begins to become part of the space that it inhabits, taking on the characteristics of the host environment, mutating over existing structures. The 'exterior' is often painted to blend into the surrounding while its interior panels, rooms and walls are painted in different colours. The importance of these colours becomes clear once the 'structure' is complete.

In his previous works, Bunga referenced Gordon Matta-Clark's anarchitectural chainsaw cuts to his constructions, by inflicting a series of rips to the base, resulting in its collapse. Once the debris was removed, the viewer was able to engage with a painted canvas.

More recently, Bunga has left the structure to decay on its own, so the viewer can investigate the interiors by walking inside it. Through his intervention Bunga's structure encourages an alternative reading of the original space, highlighting areas which may have been previously overlooked or hiding others that have not.

These constructions, it may be perceived, embrace the temporal nature of life. The accelerated speed of the process from construction to destruction, birth to death, coupled with the fragility expressed in the weakness of materials, emphasises the instability of architecture and is a symbolic reflection on the transience of existence. Always, there is a possibility of growth and change: the constructions mutate, develop, extend and remain in a state of transformation, resonating with the constant shifts and changes of Kurt Schwitters' 'Merzbau'. Just like the 'Merzbau', at the end, nothing of the intervention remains; the materials are cleared away, the original space is returned to its former self and all that remains is photographic evidence and memory.

Carlos Bunga (Porto, 1976) lives and works in New York City. He first came to public prominence after taking part in Manifesta 5, in San Sebastian 2004 and has since made projects at Artists Space, NYC, Culturgest, Porto, InSite05, San Diego and Elba Benitez Gallery, Madrid.

A full colour catalogue will accompany this Milton Keynes Gallery exhibition.

**Press Information** | For further information, press images, or interview requests, please contact Giselle Richardson. Tel: 01908 558 302 or email: [g.richardson@mk-g.org](mailto:g.richardson@mk-g.org)

**Ends** | Date of issue: 5 Apr 06