Horizontal / Vertical las figuras del poder

DE UNA INSPIRACIÓN DEL HOMÓNIMO LIBRO DE

Stefano Boni

Orizzontale e Verticale: le figure del potere - Eleuthera 2021 Rosa Jijón Ecuador / Italia

16ma Bienal de Cuenca Quizá Mañana

Direccion artística *Ferran Barenblit*

> 8 - 12 - 2023 8- 03 -2024

Horizontal / Vertical a work made for the 26th Cuenca Biennale, is inspired by the book by Italian anthropologist Stefano Boni, Orizzontale / Verticale, le figure del potere, 2021 Eleuthera.

"Space is an essential cognitive dimension. It is therefore no coincidence that spatial representations are those that make the underlying power structure immediately legible. As evidenced by a vast iconography, the arrangement of bodies in space - at the center or at the edges, above or below, large or small - allows us to clearly grasp the social relations specific to a given context. And it is thanks to his anthropologist's gaze that Boni was able to construct this original visual path that identifies, in time and space, the multifaceted figures assumed by a power with a hierarchical vocation and by an egalitarian principle instead inclined towards circularity. Thus, through an analysis of bodily postures, ritual choreographies, architectural structures and the many devices associated with top positions, an unprecedented history of that contrast between high and low that runs through both modernity and classical ethnography is outlined, to present itself intact today in the inexhaustible tension between the horizontality experimented by the new social movements and the hyper-verticality that characterizes global powers, finance first and foremost."

"What we are experiencing today is not a crisis of democracy but rather a crisis of the state. In recent years, there has been a massive revival of interest in democratic practices and procedures within global social movements, but this has proceeded almost entirely outside of statist frameworks, the future of democracy lies precisely in this area."

> David Graeber There never was a West, or Democracy emerges from the spaces in between, 2007

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a sourcente appartiene al com asser mente dritti muolobili delle con die animali fondate. "Parecería que la democracia está regresando a los espacios de donde surgió, en los espacios intermedios, en los intersticios del poder. Que desde allí pueda extenderse por todo el planeta dependerá no tanto de nuestras teorías como de la creencia real de que la gente corriente, sentada junta a deliberar, es capaz de gestionar mejor sus asuntos que las élites que los gestionan en su nombre y de quienes imponen las decisiones tomadas con la fuerza de las armas. (...) Durante gran parte de la historia humana, frente a estas preguntas, los intelectuales profesionales siempre se han puesto del lado de la élite. Mi impresión es que la mayoría de la gente todavía se deja seducir por los "espejos distorsionadores" y no tiene fe en las posibilidades de la democracia popular. Pero tal vez, las cosas ahora están cambiando."

> David Graeber There never was a West, or Democracy emerges from the spaces in between, 2007

This installation, made up of a set of reading materials (books, essays, declarations, manifestos, platforms), testimonies and interactions, aims to demonstrate how, alongside a canonical model of liberal democracy, considered the only possible matrix of government of the public space, practices of autonomy and self-government thrive, inspired by horizontal models of direct participation and radical democracy.

Many intellectuals, along with late David Graeber, such as the Uruguayan journalist Raúl Zibechi, accompany these processes from the academic world. These authors contribute on a global debate on democracy, and its failures and shortcomings, determined by what is defined as polycrisis, that is economic, social, cultural and ecological crisis.

PHOTO: ALEXIS MOREANO

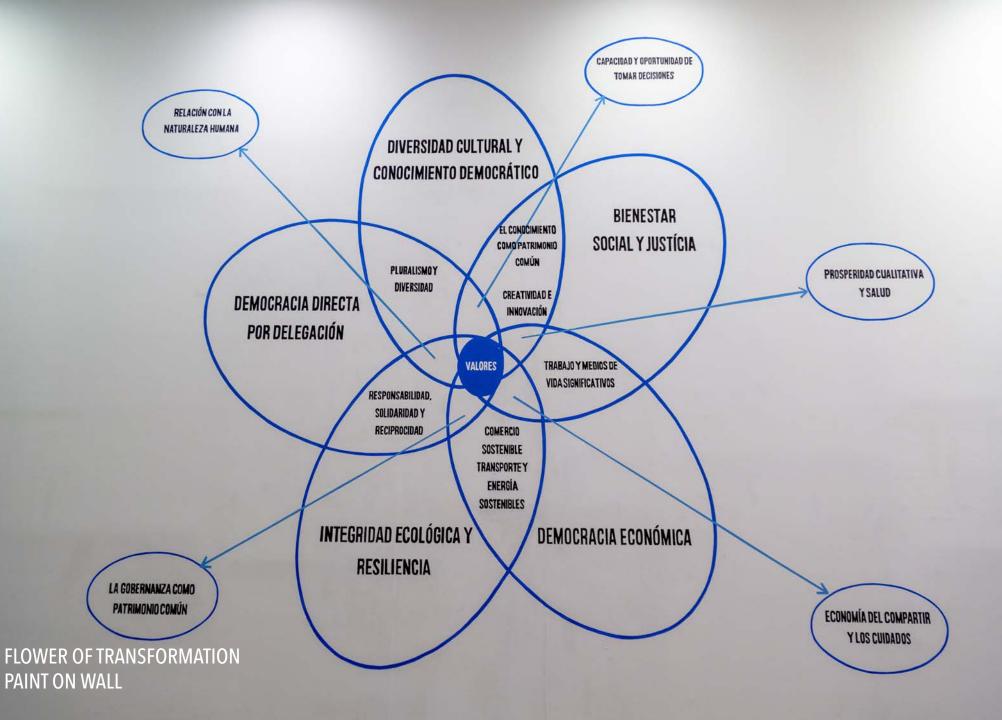
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ROUND TABLE WITH PUBLICATIONS AND MANIFESTOS DIAMETER 4M_17 CHAIRS

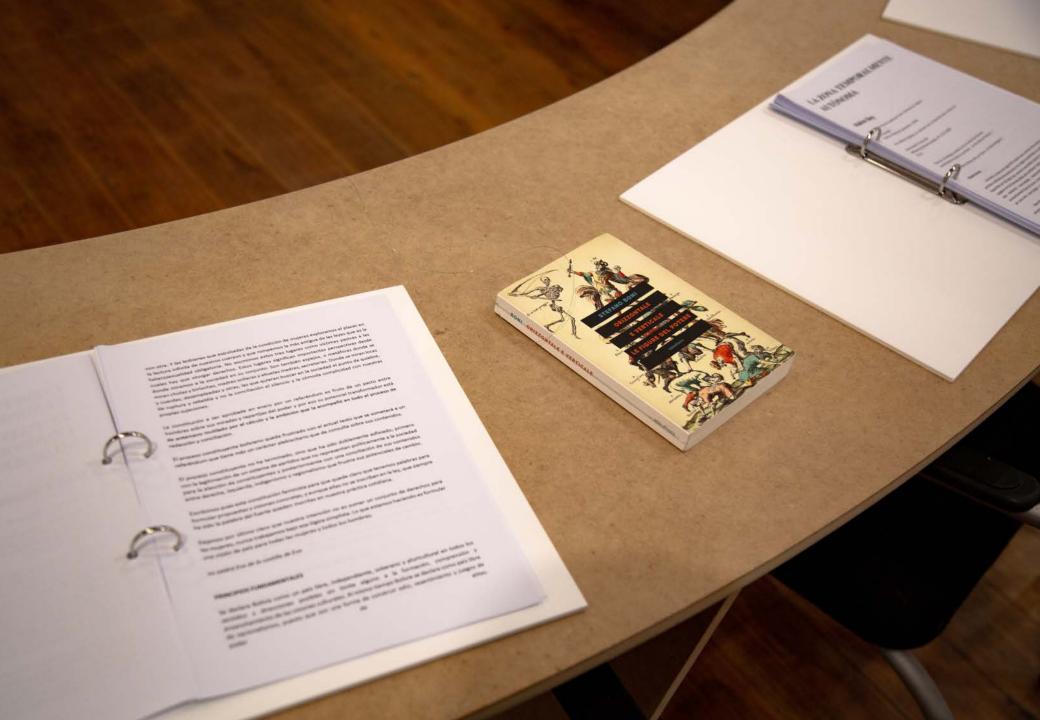


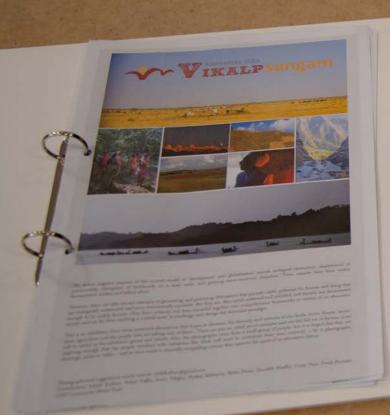
ARTA DEI DIRITTI DEUE PLANTE

La Terra é la casa comune della vita. La souvenita appartiene al ogni essere vivente La Mzzrone delle prante niconosce e grantisce i diritti involabili delle comunità naturali come società basate sulle relazioni tre orgenismi che le compongona La Nezzione delle plante non nicoluosa le guzzidie animali, fondate su centri di conombo e fungioni concentrate, e favoricae democrazie vepeteli diffuse e contratizzate art.1 art.2 La Nazione delle Diante vrispette universalmente i dontti dei viventi attuali e di quelli dulle prossime gunurazioni art 3 La Nazione delle prate grantise il divitto all'acqua, al Sialo e all'atmosfera pulit. ort4 Il consumo diquesteri montre non ricostituibile per le gunerezieni fiture dei vivanti è vieteta. art 5 la Nazyone delle piante non ha contini. Cogni essere vivente à libero d' transitavi, trasferioi, miervi sena acura limitagine La Nazione delle plante riconosce e favorisce il mutio appugno fra le comunita naturali di essen viiarti come strumanto il convenzo e propressa at6 (Stefano (nancuso) artit of 8

BLACKBOARD 5MX17M

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DECLARACIÓN UNIVERSAL DE LOS DERECHOS DE LA MADRE TIERRA RIMAFLON, HISTORIA DE UNA FÁBRICA RECUPERADA

PERION.

From World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, Cochabamba, Bolivia, 22 April – Earth Day 2010.

Presimtudo

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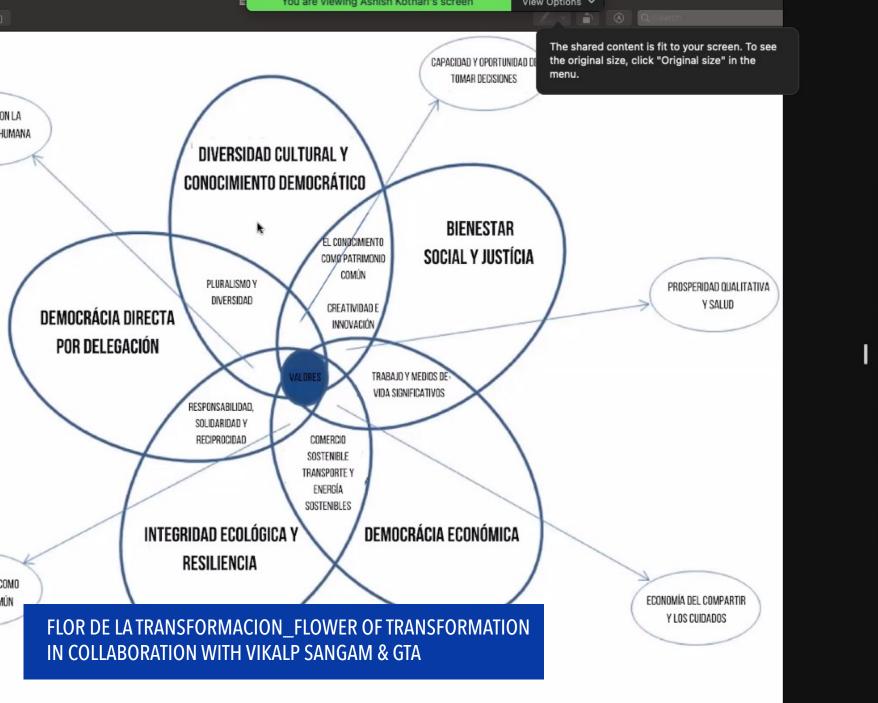
ASSEMBLY OF NON-HUMANS LINOLEUM CUT_LEPORELLO BOOK_1/1



INTERVIEWS 5 VIDEO HD_STEREO



A multimedia installation, presented as a space for mediation and dialogue, where the public completes the work by activating it, inhabiting the space, creating a commons. The spatial arrangement of the bodies at the round table, the interaction with the black wall - an invitation to comment-, the permanent participation of visitors, constitute possible actions and responses to historical questions about the distribution of power and the ways of re-imagining democracy.





View

Horizontal / Vertical entrevistas / interviews

Rosita Cabrera

Dirigenta de la comunidad ancestral de La Toglla, Ilaló Quito.

Leader of the ancestral community of La Toglla, Ilaló Quito.



Sindicalista, exponente del movimiento cooperativo RiMaFLOW, Milán y ex-senador italiano.

Trade unionist, exponent of the RiMaFLOW cooperative movement, Milan and former Italian senator.





LEBAS

Coordinador de la Cooperativa de exdetenidos Catena in Movimento, Milán.

I ENA IN DVIMENTI

Coordinator of the Cooperative of former detainees Catena in Movimento, Milan.



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Cristian Loor Loor

Activista eco-ambientalista miembro de CENSAT Colombia y del Pacto Ecosocial e Intercultural del Sur.

Activist ecoenvironmentalist member of CENSAT Colombia and the Ecosocial and Intercultural Pact of the South.



Tatiana Roa Avendaño

Periodista, activista e investigador uruguayo, especializado en movimientos sociales latinoamericanos.

Uruguayan journalist, activist and researcher, specialized in Latin American social movements.



Raúl Zibechi





Antropólogo, docente, autor del libro Orizzontale / Verticale le figure del potere. Eleuthera Edizioni, Italia.

Anthropologist, teacher, author of the book Orizzontale / Verticale le figure del potere. Eleuthera Edizioni, Italy.





HORIZONTAL / VERTICAL INSTALLATION VIEW_ESCUELA CENTRAL_CUENCA In the last decade, from the Arab Spring to the Occupy movement in New York, Puerta del Sol in Madrid, Gezi Park in Istanbul and other Asian countries, the various social outbursts that have crossed Latin America and which the Argentine sociologist Maristella Svampa has called "a generalized movement of tectonic plates", have questioned the models of representative democracy with practices that on the one hand are deconstitutive of power relations and on the other are constitutive of new possible societies.

At the same time, there has been a worrying and unprecedented restriction of civic spaces around the world, with the consequent criminalization and delegitimization of social and CICI citizens' movements and the increase of repressive apparatuses of the state. This is one side of the coin. The other side is the parallel growth of popular mobilizations, social conflict and innovative practices of deliberation, participation and representation.

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Ecuador is a clear example of these dynamics, enriched by a fruitful convergence between indigenous, peasant, urban, environmental and transfeminist movements. At the same time, also in other spaces that are not necessarily of conflict, but of self-management, such as popular markets, participatory and community practices that can be defined as prefigurative stand out. That is to say, the way in which people meet, debate, practice mutual support and solidarity, already allows us to imagine what other possible worlds could be.



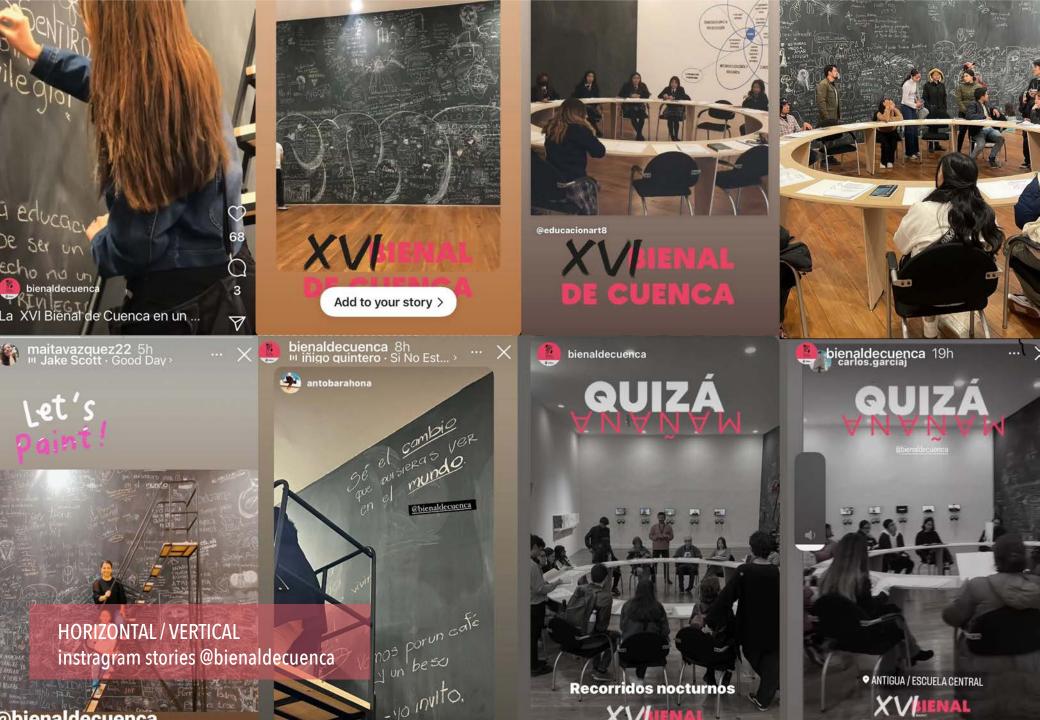
In the last uprisings in Ecuador that arose within the framework of rights recognized by the Ecuadorian Constitution, such as the right to resistance or citizen participation, protocols and deliberative practices have been formed, such as the People's Parliament or self-management and mutual support, such as the Ollas Populares in the open universities as a refuge for protesters. Or the popular consultations against mining in the Province of Azuay, in the Andean Chocó in Quito, or the ITT Yasuní, in the Amazon, which provide examples of how in Graeber's words "things are changing", with various expressions of the commons that developed on the margins of properly defined public space.

Extending the analysis beyond the human, attention goes to struggles for the recognition of the Rights of Nature, an innovative form of what could be defined as an interspecies democracy, which for the moment is declined mainly in legal fora and courtrooms, which are transformed by default in places of representation and participation of ecosystems as subjects of law.

Horizontal / Vertical, the work for the Cuenca Biennial aims to offer visual clues of examples of radical democracy and self-government that take place or took place in the country and elsewhere in the world and of how infrastructures of relationships are built. The installation includes the testimonies of social actors who are going through transformations of society, as protagonists and participants of these processes: Stefano Boni, Italian anthropologist and author of the book Orizzontale Verticale, le figure del potere; Tatiana Roa, member of Pacto Ecosocial e Intercultural del Sur and Censat, Colombia, Rosa Cabrera, community leader and curaca of the Ancestral Commune of Toglla, Ilaló, in Quito; Raúl Zibechi, journalist and Gigi Malabarba, trade unionist and promoter of Rimaflow, a reclaimed and self-government factory in the outskirts of Milan, Italy.

This project is a natural evolution of my work as an Ecuadorian artist in Ecuador and Italy and as an activist who has participated in movements for migrants' rights and in various civil society forums. The decision to return to printmaking (woodcut, intaglio, and photoengraving), with which I began my artistic career, is also an act of recovery of creative processes that need time, materiality, humility, and determination, beyond patience and care, characteristics common to the practices of real democracy that I want to bring to the attention of the public.

Finally, the objective is to break into an institutional public space with practices and suggestions that embody the commons, essential foundation of new expressions of radical and popular democracy as a contribution to the urgent alternatives that the current crisis demands.





Thanks to:

Stefano Boni Rosa Cabrera Gigi Malabarba Tatiana Roa Avendaño Raúl Zibechi Ashish Kothari

Global Alliance for The Rights of Nature GARN Pacto Ecosocial e Intercultural del Sur Global Tapestry of Alternatives GTA Eleuthera Edizioni, Italia International Tribunal for The Rights of Nature Institute for Radical Imagination Estampería Quiteña Vikalp Sangam RIMAFLOW