

PRESS RELEASE

Den Haag, 6 September 2019

HUIS VAN
HET BOEK

House of the book welcomes Chilean María Verónica San Martín from 21 September 2019 to 5 January 2020



Artist Book, *In Their Memory. Human Rights Violations in Chile, 1973-1990*. Photo: Revista Diseña Universidad Católica de Chile

House of the book shows exhibition 'Dignidad. Artists' books by María Verónica San Martín' from 21 September 2019 to 5 January 2020

Artists's books, an installation and a performance. These works are on show in the exhibition 'Dignidad' by multidisciplinary Chilean (book) artist María Verónica San Martín (1981). Her work shows a passionate involvement with the recent political past of her native country Chile. The years of the dictatorship of Pinochet (1973-199) and the long lasting effects on present day society play a leading role in her work.

San Martín's moving artists' books are part of leading collections, among others, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Centre Pompidou in Paris and the Museum of Memory and Human Rights in Santiago, Chile. This exhibition is her first appearance in Europe.

Books like monuments

María Verónica San Martín is a representative of the present day generation of book artists. Her themes and perfect technical elaboration are closely intertwined. She sees her (book)art as a means to social change. Behind the facade of a building or behind the impressive mountains of the Andes in *In their memory* and *Memory and landscape* are hidden the torturing practices and portraits of the victims. Her books make sure this history and the victims are visible again. Books like monuments.



Artist Book, *Memory and Landscape Unveiling the Historic Truths of Chile*, 2013.

Photo: Huis van het boek | Museum Meermanno

Dignidad

Besides the books visitors can watch a video recording of the performance 'Dignidad'. Colonia Dignidad was an enclave in the south of Chile which was an important place for the clandestine operations of the secret service of the Pinochet regime (1973-1990). San Martín's installation combines sculpture, sound, performance, texts, archival material, and recently discovered original tapes. These tapes were recordings of telephone conversations between the Nazi agents and the representatives of the regime. Through this installation San Martín reveals what happened in Colonia Dignidad where crimes against (minors) and opponents of the Chilean dictator took place.



Dignidad performance, National Archive of Chile, 2018.
Photo: Catalina Riutort.

The Dignidad Project is in collaboration with the National Archives of Chile, the Association of Memory and Human Rights Violation of Colonia Dignidad and the lawyer Winfried Hempel

House of the book

This exhibition is part of the series 'Revolutionary books' organized by the House of the book, a cooperative venture between the [National library of the Netherlands](#) and [Museum Meermanno](#).

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