Ping Pong - a game for artists to play

The players are Jorge Julián Arisitizábal, who is from Medellín, and Greg Creek from the Australian city of Melbourne. They are both highly accomplished artists and in their works we recognize contrasting creative languages that share much in common. Both artists work in a manner that is eclectic and profuse, technically accomplished yet haptic and open to chance. Their methodologies arise as much from their immediate cultural contexts as from their awareness of global cultural trends. If this were a game we just might say they are both fairly cognisant of the International rules of play. Yet as most any artist can tell you, the nature of creative play is not about sticking to the letter of the law, it's about what new developments might emerge when the processes of creative exploration are enabled. The process in this instance, and indeed the origins of the'Ping Pong' title, concern the exchange of individual words, randomly chosen by the artists and sent to each other in emails. It is from these linguistic prompts that a process of drawing is enacted.

Seemingly too there is something just a little bit magical about the realities that blossom and come into being when two contemporary artists, individuals who have never encountered each other in person and yet are invited to play an artistic game of Ping Pong, begin to exchange a few simple words. Adjective and nouns such as 'claustrophobia', 'sex' and 'ice' and many more besides give rise to a series of images that insinuate particular meanings but are open to a host of possibilities, concepts and stories.

DAMIAN SMITH, Curator School of Design and Social Context RMIT UNIVERSITY

Jorge Julian Aristizabal Greg Creek Colombia Australia

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