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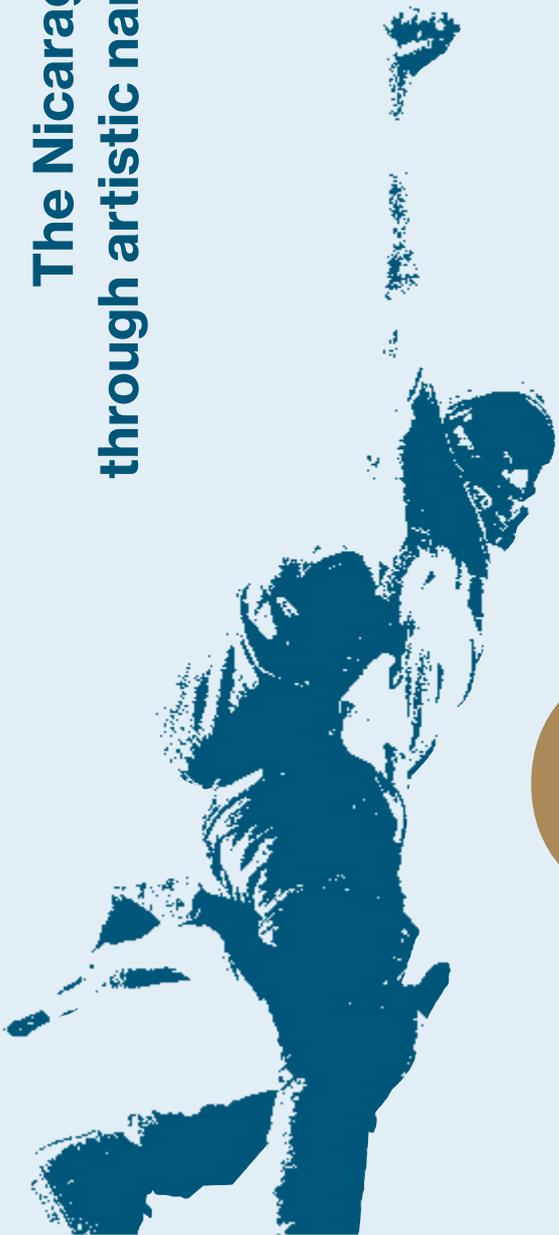
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The Nicaraguan uprising
through artistic narratives



Press Release

Glances of Resistance: The Nicaraguan Uprising through Artistic Narratives

Exhibition Dates

March 18th – March 30th, 2019

Opening Reception

Monday, March 18, 6:00 - 8:00PM

Round-Table Discussion

“Dissenting Images: Photography, Art and Protest in Nicaragua”

Tuesday, March 26, 6:00-8:00PM

Room 243 at the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS)

Location

Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) at the University of London,
Senate House (South Block, Second floor, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU)

SOSNicaragua-Germany presents the exhibition “Glances of Resistance: The Nicaraguan Uprising Through Artistic Narratives”, hosted by The Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) at the Senate House, University of London. This collective exhibition of protest and resistance art was produced as an immediate response to the political crisis in Nicaragua, which began on the 18th of April, 2018. It was first shown on the 19th of July in Berlin, on the anniversary of the Sandinista Revolution. It has since travelled to Cologne, Bielefeld, Mannheim, Frankfurt, Paris, Oslo and Trondheim. On view will be a selection of work from over 100 young artists and photographers’ submissions to an original open call by SOSNicaragua-Germany.



On April 18, 2018, demonstrations began across Nicaragua in reaction to a controversial tax increase, meant to rescue the insolvent National Social Security fund. This came in the immediate aftermath of citizens and civil activists protesting the government’s complacency, and their lack of action in response to a fire that engulfed the Indio Maíz Biological Reserve, an environmental disaster. This wave of dissent, largely enthused by university students, fed into already existing discontent with the growing authoritarianism and nepotism of President Daniel Ortega, historic leader of the FSLN (Sandinista National Liberation Front). This is the largest political, social and economic crisis Nicaragua has experienced since the Sandinista Revolution of 1978-79, and the US-backed Contra War during the 1980s.

The 2018 protests were brutally repressed by the national police, riot-police, and government supporters. Documentation of such acts was shared widely on social media under **#SOSINSS** and **#SOSNicaragua**. Repression tactics included beatings, tear-gassing, the use of rubber bullets, live ammunition, and sniper fire. This led to a rapidly growing ad-hoc movement of auto-convocados (self-assembled). As the repression increased, citizens' responses varied: from the occupation of public universities, marches, sit-ins, vigils, cacerolazos, strikes, general strikes, consumption boycotts, civil disobedience acts, street painting and graffiti, to the setting up of barricades which protected neighbourhoods and blocked traffic.

Since April of last year, over 300 citizens were killed, thousands injured, over 700 arbitrarily imprisoned, and accused under new anti-terrorism legislation (Art. 44 of Law 977 passed on the 16th of July, 2018). According to the UNHCR, more than 25,000 Nicaraguans have left the country, seeking refuge or asylum. All independent media have been censored, while human rights organizations were stripped of their legal status. The aforementioned acts of violence have been thoroughly documented by various national and international human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, the United Nations Human Rights Council, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, in a series of reports.



This exhibition is organised by SOSNicaragua-Deutschland, with the support of the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS), School of Advanced Study, University of London, SOSNicaragua-UK, Morada Feminista Nicaragua-UK, and the European Research Council (ERC) as a part of the project “Citizens of Photography: The Camera and the Political Imagination” at UCL Anthropology.

