



**Rodrigo Hernández**  
**I Am a Stranger and I Am Moving**  
**June 23-September 23, 2022**

Swiss Institute (SI), in partnership with the Village Alliance and the New York City Department of Transportation's Art Program, presents *I Am a Stranger and I Am Moving*, an installation by artist Rodrigo Hernández at Astor Place North Plaza. The site is located a few blocks from SI's gallery at 38 St Marks Pl, extending SI's program into the neighboring Cooper Union and Astor Place community.

In tribute to queer poets who have lived in and around the East Village and New York City, Hernández has created a series of drawings inspired by their words. The illustrations, which are loose interpretations of lines by writers such as Andrea Abi-Karam, W.H. Auden, Federico García Lorca, Allen Ginsberg, John Giorno, viento izquierdo ugaz, June Jordan, Jaime Manrique, Eileen Myles and David Wojnarowicz, have been transformed at Astor Place North Plaza into block-sized vinyl decals. The poems that were selected as source material speak intimately of the lives these artists lived in the neighborhood: of falling in love here, mourning here, experiencing dreams, anguish or revelations here. They are testimonials to personal experiences of this place, yet they become communal, shared through the mediums of poetry and now, drawing. Considered together, they are reminders of the layers of memories that coexist among us, the various histories that accumulate every day as we move through this city.

On the occasion of this installation, an exhibition of Hernández's original drawings along with the poetry that inspired them will be on view in the Reading Room at SI.

Swiss Institute additionally wishes to thank our partners, the Village Alliance and the New York City Department of Transportation's Art Program.



## About Rodrigo Hernández

Rodrigo Hernández (b. 1983, Mexico City) lives in Mexico City. He studied at the Akademie der bildenden Künste in Karlsruhe, and at Jan Van Eyck Academie in Maastricht in 2013-2014. Recent and upcoming solo exhibitions include: *El espejo*, Museo de Arte Moderno de Medellín, Medellín and Museo Jumex, Mexico City (2022); and *Künsthau* Bremen, Bremen (2022); *Passado*, Centro Internacional das Artes José de Guimarães, Guimarães (2021); *Petit Musc*, Kohta Kunsthalle, Helsinki (2021) and *A Moth to a Flame*, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah (2020). Public collections include Bonnefanten Museum, Maastricht; Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich; Kunstmuseum Sankt-Gallen; Nouveau Musée National de Monaco; Basel Stadt Kunstsammlung, Basel; Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo / Fundación ARCO Madrid; Museo Amparo, Puebla; ZKM Karlsruhe.

## About Astor Place

Astor Place is the crossroads of the East and West Village, the nexus of an exciting, young, vibrant artistic community. Astor Place houses two public plazas that showcase live music, parades, interactive arts and other community-building programming. The Plazas are maintained by the Village Alliance. The Alliance provides supplemental public safety and sanitation services, landscaping and beautification, economic development and community revitalization initiatives.

## About the Village Alliance

The Village Alliance, a business improvement district (BID), has proved itself to be a leading advocate for the Village community for nearly thirty years. The Alliance works to keep the area safe, clean and beautiful by providing programming, maintenance, public safety and landscaping to 44 blocks in Central Greenwich Village. The BID works with businesses, residents and cultural and academic institutions to drive economic growth. For more information, visit <https://greenwichvillage.nyc/about-us/what-we-do/>.

## About the NYCDOT Art Program

The New York City Department of Transportation's Art Program (DOT Art) partners with community-based, nonprofit organizations and professional artists to present temporary public art on NYC DOT property throughout the five boroughs for up to eleven months. Artists transform streets with colorful murals, dynamic projections and eye-catching sculptures. Sidewalks, fences, triangles, medians, bridges, jersey barriers, step streets, public plazas and pedestrianized spaces serve as canvases and foundations for temporary art. Over the past 12 years, DOT Art has produced over 300 temporary artworks citywide. For more information, visit [@nyc\\_DOT](http://www.nyc.gov/dotart), @nyc\_DOTArt.

## About Swiss Institute

Founded in 1986, Swiss Institute (SI) is an independent non-profit contemporary art institution dedicated to promoting forward-thinking and experimental art making through innovative exhibitions, education, and programs. Committed to the highest standards of curatorial and educational excellence, SI serves as a platform for emerging artists, catalyzes new perspectives on celebrated work, and fosters appreciation for under-recognized positions. SI is committed to being an organization that is diverse, equitable, and accessible in its work, structure, and programming. Open to the public free-of-charge, Swiss Institute seeks to explore how a Swiss context can be the starting point for international conversations in the fields of visual and performing arts, design, and architecture.

SI Programming is made possible in part with public funds from Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council; the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature; and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. Main sponsors include LUMA Foundation, Friends of SI and the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation. Exhibitions are made possible in part by the SI Annual Exhibition Fund with leadership support provided by the LUMA Foundation, Michael Ringier, Olivier Audemars, Philippe Bertherat, Max and Monique Burger, the Garcia Family Foundation, Florian Gutzwiller, Dominique Lévy, Susanne von Meiss, Iwan Wirth, Ghislaine Brenninkmeijer, the Kevin Wendle Foundation, and the Freedman Family Foundation. SI gratefully acknowledges Swiss Re as SI ONSITE Partner, Vitra as Design Partner, Crozier Fine Arts as Preferred Shipping Art Logistics Partner, and SWISS as Travel Partner.

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