

María Ordóñez Cruz

29.05.1988

Creative mediator and researcher

My work focuses on the relationship between water, rivers, and collective forms of resistance in Colombia. Combining situated and socially engaged methods, I facilitate collaborative epistemological situations with local communities affected by violence and trauma.

Currently, I am developing the project "Echoes of the river: Absences, affective porosities and other forms of encounter through water in Colombia" in the Department of Cultural Analysis at the University of Zurich. And I also participate of the program «Epistemologien ästhetischer Praktiken» (UZH/ZHdK/Collegium Helveticum).

education

Doctoral candidate (2017-2024)
University of Zurich, ZH

MA in Design (2015-2019)
University of the Andes, Colombia

BA in Visual Arts (2007-2014)
Pontifical Xaveriana University,
Colombia

work experience

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maria.ordonezcruz@uzh.ch

Assistant and visual designer

Jan. 2023 - Jan. 2024

Romanisches Seminar,
French literature department
University of Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland

Invited artist

Aug. 2021 - May. 2022

Practice-based project about decolonial strategies and entanglements in the city of Zurich.
Decolonize Zurich Collective
Zurich, Switzerland

Research assistant

Jul. 2017-May 2021

Research team: "Contested Amnesia and Dissonant Narratives. Postconflict in Literature, Art and Archives"
Directed by Prof. Dr. Liliana Gómez.
Department of Art History, University of Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland

Graphic and visual designer

From 2017 to 2022

For cultural and academic events of different institutions: Romanisches Seminar (UZH), Digitale Lehre und Forschung (UZH), la_cápsula (art space)
Zurich, Switzerland

Researcher and visual artist

Sep. 2020 - Dec. 2021

Volunteer of the work group about forced disappearance of people in Colombia
Embrace Dialogue (ReD)
UK/Switzerland/Colombia

Assistant teacher

Spring semester 2016

Course: Design thinking methodologies
Departments of economy and design
University of the Andes
Bogotá, Colombia

Research assistant

Autumn semester 2016

Project: Visual design in public space of Bogotá
Directed by M.A Maria Restrepo
Department of design, University of the Andes
Bogotá, Colombia

publications

Ordóñez - Cruz, María (Forthcoming-2024)
Las Aguas de Colombia.
Instituto Capaz, Editorial Tres Tintas,
Bogotá.

Ordóñez - Cruz, María (2023)
**«Of Rivers and Echoes: Colombia's Aqueous
Communities from a Transgenerational
Perspective»;**
Figurationen: Gender, Literature, Kultur, Vol 24.
2023/1, p73-84.

Louveau, Nastasia, Gabrí, Carla, Furrer,
Wiktorja, Arthur, Zmijewski and
Ordóñez, María (eds.). **How to Teach Art?**
Diaphanes, Zurich, 2022.

Ordóñez - Cruz, María (2023)
**«Cuerpos en trance. Paisaje, transición y
desaparición en Colombia»;**
Papeles del CEIC, vol. 2020/1, papel 227, 1-27.

presentations & events

**2024: Memorias húmedas y narrativas del río
Cauca.**

Winter retreat of the Romanisches Seminar
University of Zurich

**2023: Ecos, ausencias y porosidades afectivas en
el río.** Workshop Amazonian Echoes.
Sapienza University of Rome, Department of
European and Intercultural Studies

**2020: Sujetos invisibles y efectos de la desaparición
en Colombia**

Seminar, workshop: Social Space, Memory and
Conflict in Colombia
University of Basel / Museum der Kulturen Basel

2019: Some observations on the landscape
Exhibition: Contested Landscapes, Emergent
Archives
EUME, American University Beirut

2018: Non-narrated portraits
International Documentary Exhibition
of Bogota, MIDBO
Bogota, Colombia

**2018: (Des)Encuentros: Experiencias Subjetivas,
Memorias Culturales y Diarios de la Desaparición
en Colombia”**

María Ordóñez and María Fernanda Olarte
International Conference / Museum of Memory and
Human Rights
Santiago de Chile

grants

New Research Formats

Awarded in 2022

Research project: “*Encounters in the river:
Disappearance, water, memory and other
forms of encounter in Colombia*”

Latin American Center Zurich
University of Zurich
Zurich, Switzerland

Research grant to develop art projects on historical memory

Awarded in June 2016

Art project: *Non-Narrated Portraits*
Ministry of Culture and The National Centre
for Historical Memory
Bogotá, Colombia

Eduardo Jorge de Oliveira

Associate Professor of Literature,
Arts & Media.
ETH Zurich

Andrea Botero

Research fellow
Department of Design
Aalto University
Helsinki, Finland

Claudia Salamanca

Director of the department of Visual Arts
Pontifical Xavierian University
Bogotá, Colombia

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references