

JORGE AYALA-ISAZA
Tears, Race & Bullets



From January 8 to February 6, 2022
Opening **canceled** due to COVID-19

An exhibition presented by La Bande Vidéo, the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council and the Cinematheque of Cuba

Québec, December 15, 2021 – La Bande Vidéo, a media arts centre that takes part in the development of a contemporary video culture, is honored to present *Tears, Race & Bullets*, an exhibition by Jorge Ayala-Isaza. This project, rich with archival efforts and glaring topicality, began with us in the spring of 2019 ; it is now coming back to us this winter, finalized, and will be shown in our gallery at 620, Côte d'Abraham, from January 8 to February 6, 2022.

Tears, Race & Bullets is a multichannel video installation that draws its content from newsreels produced weekly by the *Noticiero ICAIC Latinoamericano* (the Cuban Institute of Cinematographic Art and Industry) from 1960 to 1990.

The source episode of the project, launched in 1968, deals specifically with the struggles of the Black Panther Party against racism in the United States in the 60s. Ayala-Isaza thus

reclaims and appropriates the footage from this newsreel and combines it with satirical commentary, a compelling soundtrack and eclectic video editing.

This blend aims to highlight the issues of repression, resistance to police brutality, the militarization of law enforcement as well as the controversial use of tear gas against civilians. It incidentally underlines the subjectivity that heavily tainted the Cuban media when it came to reporting these struggles for human rights – a blatantly relevant problem, even now, at the dawn of 2022.

Tears, Race & Bullets is the second installation in a series developed by the artist which explores the documentary heritage of Latin America as reflected in UNESCO'S "Memory of the World" International Register, established in 1992. This register is an international initiative dedicated to protecting the world's documentary heritage.

This work was produced with the support of the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council, La Bande Vidéo and the Cinematheque of Cuba.

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Jorge Ayala-Isaza is a media artist whose practice explores archival and historical research for the creation of non-fiction transmedia narratives that currently focus on issues of memory, resistance, migration, and Latin American revolutionary iconography.

Ayala-Isaza is currently based in Toronto (Canada) where he pursues doctoral studies in Media and Design Innovation while working as a digital media producer and consultant. He has studied at the Hochschule der Medien in Stuttgart, Freie Universität in Berlin, and worked as intern at the Cinematheque of Cuba. He spends studio time in Cartagena (Colombia) and Havana (Cuba).

- 30 -

Source :

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