

## José Antonio Suárez Londoño: *The Yearbooks* November 3–December 9, 2012

Drawing Room

Opening Reception: Friday, November 2, 6–8pm



JL22: José Antonio Suárez Londoño, *Jacki Lyden, The Daughter of the Queen of Sheba*, 2004. Mixed media, 8 3/4 x 5 inches (closed), 8 3/4 x 10 inches (open), image no. 1, Book 1 of 2.

For further information and images, please contact  
Molly Gross, *Communications Director*, The Drawing Center  
212 219 2166 x119 | [mgross@drawingcenter.org](mailto:mgross@drawingcenter.org)

September 27, 2012

**New York** – The Drawing Center presents *José Antonio Suárez Londoño: The Yearbooks*, on view in the Drawing Room from November 3–December 9, 2012. This exhibition will include a selection of notebooks, or “yearbooks,” dating from 1997 to the present, taken from the Colombian artist’s ongoing project in which he creates a daily drawing based on a book or series of books that he reads over the course of a year. For José Antonio Suárez Londoño (JASL), creativity is inherently responsive, an idea that his notebooks embody both conceptually and in their sequential physical form. *The Yearbooks* present a model of drawing as notation that is rigorous while swift, disciplined while non-contained, and personal while outward-looking. To complement the drawings, a facsimile of one entire notebook will be on view. This exhibition is curated by Claire Gilman.

During the past fifteen years, JASL has produced over sixty-five yearbooks containing over five thousand drawings to accompany a diverse range of texts including the diaries of Paul Klee, Franz Kafka and Eugène Delacroix; Ovid’s *Metamorphosis*; W. G. Sebald’s *The Rings of Saturn*; and Patti Smith’s poetry. Each notebook drawing is numbered and dated, as are the corresponding texts, and they frequently include additional diaristic notations. In some cases, an individual sheet illustrates an entire passage; in other cases, it references a single word. Although JASL’s project is straightforward, his mandate is far from simple. It requires persistence and a willingness to forgo perfection. It also involves a strategy—the books must last over the course of the year and the illustrations conform to the size of the notebook and the materials on hand. Because of the porous papers and media with which he works, JASL must continually incorporate mishaps or leftover traces that have bled through one page to the next. Rendered in a distinctive yet malleable style that

is at turns bold and subtle, loose and defined, representational and abstract, JASL's drawings adapt themselves to the text at hand. They are illustrational in the best sense.

### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Born in 1955 in Medellín, Colombia, José Antonio Suárez Londoño has been active as an artist since the 1970s. His work was shown in early solo exhibitions at Galería de la Oficina, Medellín (1977, 1982, 1984) and then at Galería Sextante, Bogotá (1992); Galería DER BRÜCKE, Buenos Aires (1994); Galerie Trois Points, Montreal (1998); Museo de las Américas, Washington (2001); and Hospelt Gallery, San Francisco (2005). He has also taken part in important group shows like *F(R)ICCIONES VISIONES DEL SUR*, Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid (2000); *Roteiros*, XXIV Sao Paulo Biennial, Brazil (2000); Trienal de Grabado, San Juan, Puerto Rico (2004); *The Modern Myth: Drawing Mythologies in Modern Times*, MoMA, New York (2010); the Festival Internacional de música Cartagena, MAM de Cartagena (2010). His work is featured in The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Ruth and Marvin Sackner Archive of Concrete and Visual Poetry, Miami, Florida; the Tamarind Institute, Albuquerque, New Mexico; and the Tweed Museum of Art, Duluth, Minnesota, among other collections. In 2004-05 he was artist in residence at the Tamarind Institute.

### **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

Saturday, November 3, 3:30-5pm

The Lab Gallery

Portrait drawing class (ages 16+) led by José Antonio Suárez Londoño, with an introduction to the exhibition *José Antonio Suárez Londoño: The Yearbooks* by curator, Claire Gilman.

Thursday, November 29, 6:30pm

Reading with Contemporary Authors

In conjunction with the exhibition, *José Antonio Suárez Londoño: The Yearbooks*, renowned authors Deborah Eisenberg (b. Illinois, 1945) and Jacki Lyden (b. Wisconsin, 1954) will read passages from select literary texts and memoirs that inspired the notebook drawings on view.

### **PUBLICATION**

In conjunction with *José Antonio Suárez Londoño: The Yearbooks*, The Drawing Center will produce a *Drawing Papers* catalogue that will include an essay by Claire Gilman, Curator. The publication will be approximately 144 pages with 87 color images.

## CREDITS

*José Antonio Suárez Londoño: The Yearbooks* is made possible in part by Gabriel Pérez-Barreiro and Regine Basha, with additional support provided by the Embassy of Colombia.



The Mario Gradowczyk Public Program Series supports programming related to the institution's Latin American exhibitions and is funded by Felisa Gradowczyk, Diego Gradowczyk and Isabella Hutchinson.

## ABOUT THE DRAWING CENTER

The Drawing Center is the only not-for-profit fine arts institution in the country to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established in 1977 to provide opportunities for emerging and under-recognized artists; to demonstrate the significance and diversity of drawings throughout history; and to stimulate public dialogue on issues of art and culture.

## HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

Gallery hours are Wednesday, 12pm–6pm, Thursday, 12pm–8pm, and Friday–Sunday, 12pm–6pm (closed Mondays and Tuesdays). The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

**FACEBOOK:** [The Drawing Center](#)

**TWITTER:** [twitter.com/drawingcenter](#)

**TUMBLR:** [the-drawing-center.tumblr.com](#)

**PINTEREST:** [pinterest.com/drawingcenter/](#)

###

# José Antonio Suárez Londoño: *The Yearbooks* November 3–December 9, 2012

## Images Available for Reproduction

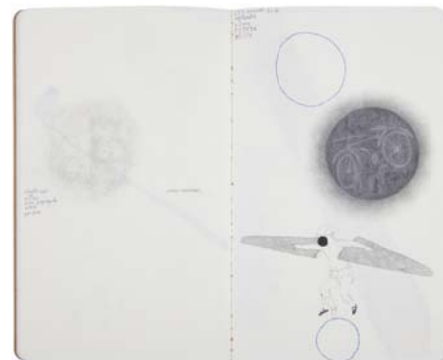
For further information and images, please contact  
Molly Gross, *Communications Director*, The Drawing Center  
212 219 2166 x119 | [mgross@drawingcenter.org](mailto:mgross@drawingcenter.org)



José Antonio Suárez Londoño, *The Journal of Eugène Delacroix* (January), 1999. Mixed media, 6 1/4 x 4 inches (31 parts). Courtesy of the artist.



JL15: José Antonio Suárez Londoño, *Evan S. Connell, Diary of a Rapist*, 2000. Mixed media, 4 x 12 inches (open). Courtesy of the artist.



JL30: José Antonio Suárez Londoño *Patti Smith*, 2009. Mixed media, 8 1/4 x 10 inches (open). Book 7 of 9.



JL22: José Antonio Suárez Londoño, *Jacki Lyden, The Daughter of the Queen of Sheba*, 2004. Mixed media, 8 3/4 x 5 inches (closed), 8 3/4 x 10 inches (open), image no. 1, Book 1 of 2.



JL31: José Antonio Suárez Londoño, *Blaise Cendrars Complete Poems/Poésies Complètes*, 2010. Mixed media, 8 x 6 inches (closed), 16 x 6 inches (open), image no. 97, Book 2 of 4.



JL12: José Antonio Suárez Londoño, *Paul Klee Diaries*, 1998. Mixed media, 12 x 4 inches (open), Book 5 of 16.