



# OREJARENA & STEIN

Born in Columbia & U.K., 1994.

Live and work in New York, U.S.

Orejarena & Stein (b. Colombia, 1994 & UK, 1994) are a multimedia artist duo currently based in New York. Their work uses the intersection of technology, memory, and desire to explore American mythologies and narratives as they grapple with their relationship to the country that has become their adopted home. Orejarena & Stein are fascinated with the emergent property that comes with making each photograph together with a single camera. Their work explores notions of the collective and collaboration in an often individualistic medium. Their work often involves extensive research into how their images relate to collective image making and the ocean of images surrounding us.

Orejarena & Stein's work has been exhibited internationally, including at Vin Gallery in HCMC, Jiazazhi Press's project space in Shanghai, Vincom Center for Contemporary Art in Hanoi, FOAM museum for contemporary photography in Amsterdam, Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans, Palo Gallery in New York, The Curator's Room in Amsterdam, Belfast Photo Festival, Arles Photo Festival, Encontros da Imagem, among others. Orejarena & Stein's work is in a number of public & private collections, including The J. Paul Getty Museum, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, The Nguyen Art Foundation, The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, New York State Museum, and The Ann Tenenbaum & Thomas H. Lee Family Collection.

A book of their work, *Long Time No See*, was published by Jiazazhi Press in 2022 and is held



in the special collections library of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Museum of Modern Art, amongst others. Their second book, *American Glitch*, with an introduction by ICP curator David Campany, is published by Gnomix Book. The duo has also compiled a booklet with contributions from 36 renowned artist, writers, and curators, offering a range of perspectives on conceptions of glitch in contemporary society to be paired with the artist book. The artists' first European solo show *Tactics & Mythologies* will open in early September at the Deichtorhallen in Hamburg, curated by Nadine Isabelle Henrich.



Spanning across installation, sculpture, photography, moving image, and soundscape, *Long Time No See* by artist duo Orejarena & Stein blurs the lines between memory and reality, subject and author, and history and fiction, through which they produce an alternative future for war recollection and reconciliation. Drawing on a two-year collaboration with veterans and younger descendants affected by the U.S.-Vietnam war, the layering of original, collaborative, and documentary elements is an effort to communicate the complex legacy of post-war, transnational relationship between Vietnam, America, and their peoples.

Focusing on a group of teenagers at Làng Hữu Nghị, the photographs project an intimate choreography between the subjects and the artist duo with the occasional drawing intervention by the collaborators. Using American commercial advertising lexicon and reflecting on iconic documentary photographs, neon sculptures and wallpaper made in collaboration with Nguyễn Tiến Hưng, who participated in the duo's workshop in 2018-2020, explore the commercialization of war, counteract the sensationalism of Western media, and

contemplate how these war images resonate today. *War Words* (2021), the second installation of the show, is a continued exploration of the implications of psychological warfare through propaganda. It looks at the capitalist influence of post-war, soft power by repurposing propaganda used by the U.S. army and the Northern Vietnamese army during the war.

Orejarena & Stein are interested in how these messages reflect assumptions about the opposing side. Hearing such conflicting narratives in the confines of a white cube space calls into question how we navigate contested positions. Lastly, the videos are dream-like vignettes co-directed with Vietnamese veterans that express their relationship with the war through a series of freely associated images, often depicting surreal alterations of memory or powerful natural forces and phenomena.

The end result is a product of collaboration and fragility. The artist duo is interested in how larger socio-economic and political structures are simultaneously visible and hidden within what is personal, psychological, and spiritual.

### Selected Solo: 2021 Full of Surprises | Ho Chi Minh City

Drawing on a two year collaboration with veterans and younger descendants affected by chemical weapons used by the U.S during the Vietnam-America war, this constellation of images blurs the lines between memory and reality, and challenges traditional barriers between subject and

author. The photographs primarily focus on a group of teenagers over a two-year period at Làng Hữu Nghị. These photos were not made as a document or directive, but rather as an intimate choreography between the subjects and the artist duo and, at times, the subjects drew directly on the photographs.



*Tân & Đức at Wedding, 2018*

Archival inkjet print

with ink drawing by Nguyễn Tiến Hưng











## Orejarena & Stein

Born in 1994 in Colombia & UK

Based in Brooklyn

## Education

2017      BA, Vassar College, NY

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2024      Tactics & Mythologies: Andrea Orejarena & Caleb Stein, Diechtorhallen  
Hamburg (upcoming in the fall of 2024, curated by Nadine Isabelle Heinrich)  
American Glitch, PALO Gallery, NY
- 2023      American Glitch, Belfast Photo Festival
- 2022      Long Time No See, Special Editions Project (Sep), Shanghai, China
- 2021      Full of Surprises, Vin Gallery, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

## Solo/Group Books

- 2023      American Glitch, published by Gnomic Book. Introduction by David Company,  
including a booklet with contributions on conceptions of glitch from 36 renowned  
artists, curators, and writers
- 2022      Long Time No See, artist book published by Jiazazhi Press.  
Texts by Forensic Architecture and Đỗ Tường Linh,  
designed in collaboration with Brian Paul Lamotte  
Hariban/Benrido Award Catalogue, 'Long Time No See' text by Yasufumi  
Nakamori (Curator, Tate)



## Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2024      Disinformation, The Griffin Museum, MA (curated by Crista Dix), forthcoming  
Season Energeia, Art Taipei.  
Night of the Year, Arles Photo Festival ('American Glitch' shown as part of the  
'Night of the Year' screening)  
FOAM Talent Awards, FOAM Photography Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
(curated by Aya Musa)  
American Glitch, Center for Photographic Art, Carmel, California, exhibited  
alongside Channell Stone (curated by Ann Jastrab)
- 2023      Currents, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans (curated by Jacob  
Moscovitch)  
American Glitch, Encontros da Imagem Festival, Portugal
- 2022      The Real Wild, PALO Gallery, NY  
Orejarena & Stein, The Curator's Room, Amsterdam, Netherlands (curated by  
Gabriel Rolt, exhibited alongside Francisco de Goya, Adam Broomberg, and  
Jake & Dinos Chapman)  
NFT NYC, Nifty Gateway Group Exhibition, 52 Mercer Street  
Long Time No See, Vincom Center for Contemporary Art, Hanoi, Vietnam  
(curated by Mizuki Endo & Đỗ Tường Linh)

**Artist Talks/Lectures**

- 2024      Palo Gallery, artist talk with Jessica D. Brier, curator of photography at Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center
- Center for Photographic Art, artist talk with Shana Lopes, curator of photography at SFMoMA
- Foam Talent Panel, FOAM, Amsterdam
- Center for Photography in Woodstock (CPW), artist talk
- 2023      Center for Photographic Art, California, invited by Ann Jastrab
- 2022      Penumbra Foundation, invited by David Rothenberg
- Vassar College, visiting artist
- 2021      Philadelphia Photo Arts Center (TILT)
- International Center of Photography (ICP), invited by photographer Kathryn Harrison
- University College London (UCL), Art Business Summit
- 2020      Christie's Education, Christie's Conversations in Contemporary Art, invited by Kathleen Madden, ArtForum
- 2019      Sotheby's Art Institute, Emerging Photographers & Their Market, hosted at Red Hook Labs



## Selected Collections

J. Paul Getty Museum

K. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Poughkeepsie, NY, USA

Nguyen Art Foundation, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Thomas H. Lee & Ann Tenenbaum Family Collection

MoMA (library collection)

Metropolitan Museum of Art (library collection)

Yale University (library collection)

## GALLERY INFORMATION

### HO CHI MINH CITY

35/8 Nguyen Van Dau Street, Ward 6  
Binh Thanh District, HCMC, Vietnam

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Monday - Saturday, 10:00am - 5:00pm

### SHANGHAI

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No.376 Bansongyuan Road,  
Huangpu District, Shanghai, China

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Tuesday - Saturday, 10:30am - 5:30pm