



*Dialogues about a Wall*¹

by Jorge Méndez Blake

translated by Alexia Halteman

I

–What’s being built?
–A wall.
–What is its use?
–To enclose the garden.
–What size is it?
–The width of the volcano.

II

–What came first, the wall or the garden?
–The wall.
–So how was the tree planted?
–There was a door.
–Who closed it?
–The poet.
–From inside or outside?
–I do not know.

III

–Who is leaning on the wall?
–A poet.

–Why is he trembling?
–He was poisoned.
–Will he survive?
–I do not know.

IV

–What are those stones on the ground?
–The remnants of a wall.
–What happened to it?
–The poet destroyed it.
–Why?
–Outrage.

V

–What happened to the garden of eden?
–It was abandoned.
–Is something still standing?
–The wall that enclosed it.
–What is it made of?
–Language.

¹ Fragments from the author’s upcoming book *Dialogues about a Poet, an Apple and a Grid*, by Impronta Casa Editora, Guadalajara, México.



Fig. 1. *Ante la ley (Franz Kafka) / Before the Law (Franz Kafka)*, 2016
Lápiz de color sobre papel / Colored Pencil on paper
200 x 152 cm

This drawing takes the shape of the text boxes in Kafka's story "Before the Law" as the basic shape for an architectural series of closed spaces.



Fig. 2. Proyecto para biblioteca cerrada / Project for a Closed Library, 2014
Madera, metracrilato, metal, espejo / Wood, methacrylate, metal, mirror
100 x 100 x 118 cm

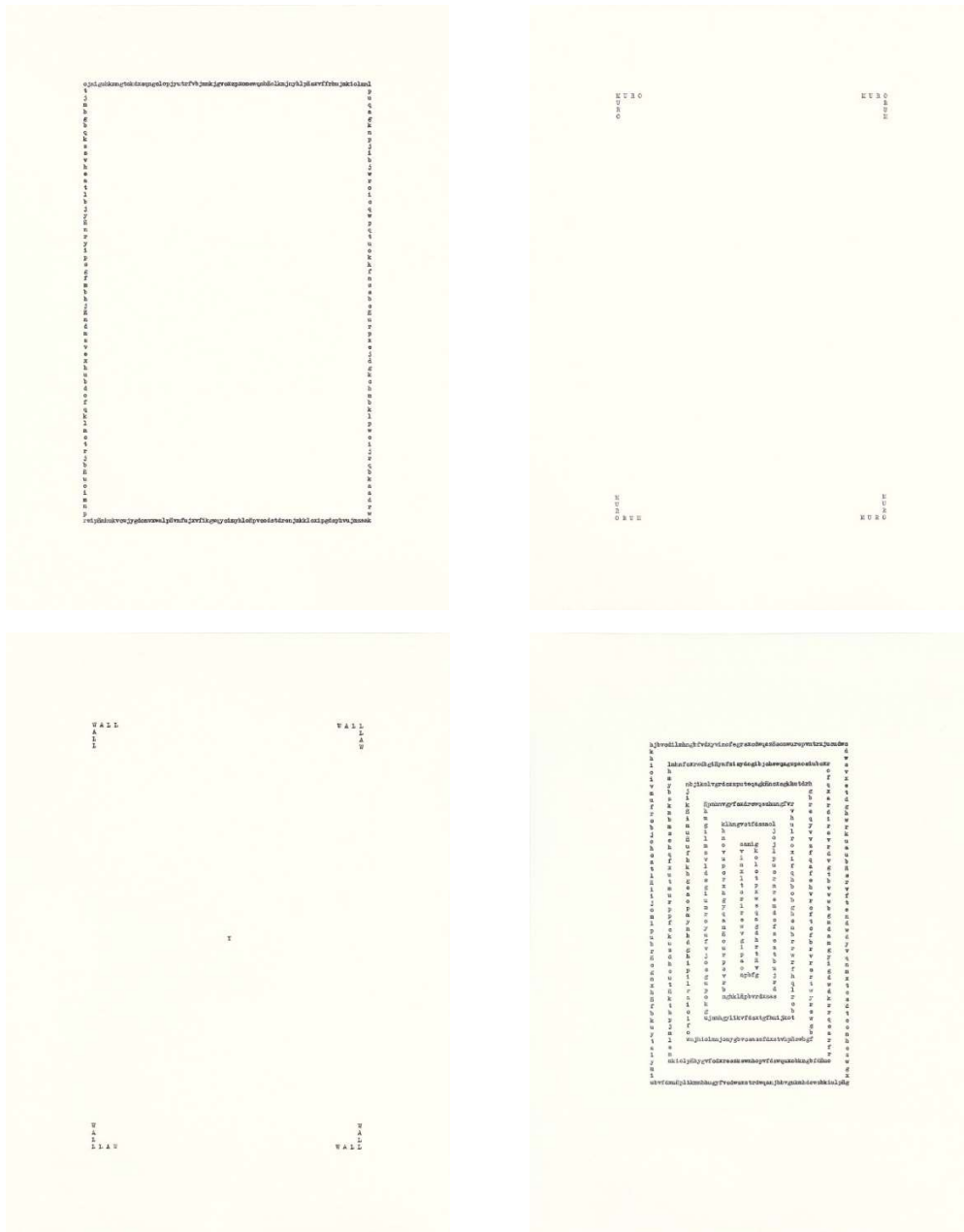


Fig. 3. *El emperador ha enviado un mensaje / The Emperor Has Sent a Message*, 2017

Tinta sobre papel / Ink on paper

Políptico de 7 piezas de 37.5 x 27.5 cm (selección de 4) / 7 pieces of 37.5 x 27.5

Polyptych (selection of 4)

Inspired by Kafka's "A message from the emperor" short story.



Fig. 4. *Proyecto para plaza pública / Biblioteca abierta III*, 2011.
Lápiz de color sobre papel / Colored Pencil on paper
84x120cm

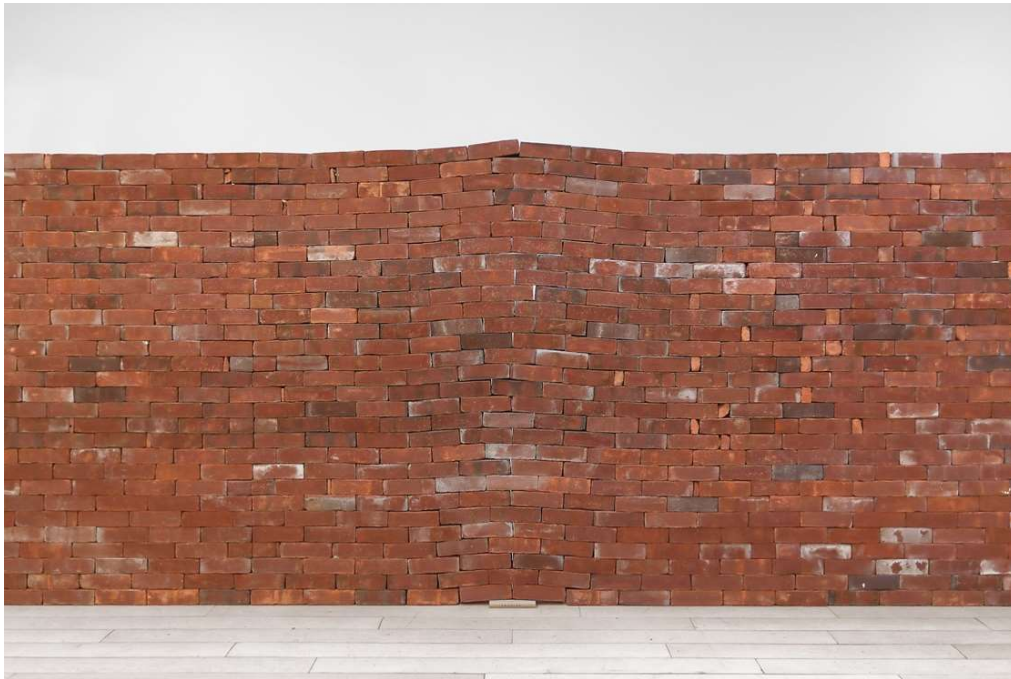


Fig. 5. *Amerika*, 2019
Ladrillos, edición de "Amerika" de Franz Kafka / Bricks, edition of "Amerika" by Franz Kafka
185.1 x 30.2 x 1016 cm



Jorge Méndez Blake (Guadalajara, México, 1974. Lives and works in Guadalajara)

The work of Méndez Blake explores the possible intersections between literature, visual arts and architecture, fusing different historic and geographical elements, provoking new readings on the role of language in our culture. The artist employs analysis and synthesis as tools to transform different narratives and poetics into visual compositions, attempting to shed a light on the material and immaterial aspects that are implied in the act of writing. Similarly, Méndez Blake has devoted a significant part of his work to studying libraries as relational systems in which historical and cultural dimensions of a given context converge.

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