Sofía Hernández Chong Cuy - Introduction

00:08 - Hello, good morning, thank you for being here. I’d like to also greet those who are watching us via the digital connection that Venevisión is providing us. So, the sixth edition of the Cisneros Foundation Seminar, as you know, is titled “Muestra, Cuenta” (Show, Tell). “Show” plays with the meaning of the word, to demonstrate, and our colloquial use of the word to talk about exhibitions: shows. And “tell” comes from the many stories we know

00:38 - about art exhibitions that have been catalysts come to us through telling, through testimony, through conversation among friends and colleagues, and obviously also all of art history. For this seminar we’ve organized a day, our workday, into three sessions. The first session we’ll start with is basically focused on the [cultural] producers, those who have worked to create the institutions that today are our pillars

01:08 - and our inspiration for thinking about and experiencing contemporary art. The second session will focus on the decade of the 1990s and we’ll have three case studies, rather than three people, three specific projects. Exhibitions that, whether for their content or for the polemic they generated, marked a guiding line for how to produce art and to discuss it at any given moment. The third session is on the future,

01:38 - the near future, 30 years after the 90s we have the decade of the 2020s, and that’s not only so that it would be 1960, 1990, 2020, but also so that it would be a very near future for which we need to prepare ourselves to create projects that, hopefully, come from inspiration in the present. There is a series of proposals from the world of literature, of architecture and of the plastic arts that will be presented this afternoon, and we hope

02:08 - many of these ideas will be commented on a little bit earlier during the round tables that will take place at lunch. I think that if you have your wristband, the round tables are in some way an effort to seriously take into account some of the evaluations and the criticism that you’ve given us in past years, that it’s of interest to you as a public to have a closer dialogue with our speakers, with our invitees. So, these are organized in pairs,

02:38 - two speakers either from the afternoon’s Pecha Kuchas or from the morning or afternoon conference sessions, will sit at the tables and you the registered public may have a more casual conversation with them, ask them questions, talk about your own ongoing projects and, well, that’s the idea. We’ll see if you like it, we’ll see if it works, you’ll let us know. Those who have already signed up may also, during the lunch session at the Muestra Hipnótica (Hypnotic Show),

03:08 - we’ll talk about this a little after these morning sessions. It’s a bit of an experimental project for everyone, including us, and we’ll say a few words about it before lunch. I want to remind you that we are connected via social media and digital modes of
communication. Here are the handles and the hashtags, and also the web page where we ask you to please, throughout the day, share the questions you’d like to ask here

03:38 - so that we can select a few of them to ask our speakers, and also please share with your own communities the ideas and reflections you have about the presentations, so that the knowledge we generate can multiply and be widely expressed. One of the things we also took seriously into account when organizing this seminar was that perhaps the presentations made here as conferences, eventually documented on video,

04:08 - perhaps they weren’t enough, that maybe we’d have different perspectives on a given project. One speaker could give us one point of view, but perhaps a different voice could propose another way to approach the same topic. So, using the Collection’s web platform, coleccioncisneros.org, we have commissioned several excellent texts, some have been reposted a lot already precisely because they are now contributions to the field of art history.

04:38 - Among the writers are Aixa Sánchez, Constanza de Rogatis and Gabriela Rangel. Three Venezuelan women who are very active, very brilliant and each one presents a particular point-of-view on projects that will be presented here, shows, initiatives and more. So, I welcome you all to please read and share this content online. Well,

05:08 - to end my introduction which has already passed its quick minute, I’d like to present to you Daniela, who will be our moderator and who will stay here, but first we’ll play a short video of a call we did with the artist Javier Téllez, asking him what exhibition or project of the decade of the 60s influenced him. So, let’s begin with the video of Javier Téllez.