

1998

Rosca Izquierda

Opposition from/of the left

Censored by: The author

Reason: Fear and paranoia

Video version of the New Times series

The author reoriented the idea of the work towards the theme of paranoia and the control mechanisms of a work of art. The sponsors and the author agreed to place the work in a locked trunk and postpone its public presentation for a future, as of yet an indefinite moment.

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A blue trunk is set on the floor, secured with two padlocks, whose keys are held by different people with the agreement that they will not open the trunk, as revealing its contents could pose a danger to the artist and his family. An accompanying video gives a glimpse of eleven brief segments with Fidel Castro on horseback wearing a military hat; the image eventually fades and morphs into the Marlboro Man. There is no storyline in the video, it is activity, round and round, without an end purpose.

The Spanish title loosely translates to signify someone who goes against the grain and opposes the prevailing system: a non-conformist who always has an opinion contrary to the prevailing one. Thus, we can assume that the title is an encoded message, suggesting that whatever they may be, the contents must represent a contradiction of those in power.

The specific boundaries of what is allowed in Cuban art have not been clearly stated. Much of what separates the allowable from the forbidden is murky, probably not clear even to those who run the institutions with powers of censorship.

Is it time to open the blue trunk, or is it still “not the right time”?