

Ulises Carrión

In Groningen, the conceptual artist Ulises Carrión (1941-1989) is no stranger and is even part of the Groningen cultural DNA. Early in his career, in 1974, Carrión took part in a group exhibition in De Mangelgang, entitled 'Favorite Books'. During the summer manifestation in 1977 he came to Groningen for the performance '[45 revoluciones por minute](#)', performed within the sound poetic program 'Taalhandelingen'. This took place on Sunday August 7 at the Martinikerkhof. Carrión combined a 45 RPM picture with revolution - 'RPM' is 'revoluciones' in Spanish - by counting revolutions at lightning speed while rotating a picture. He came to 149. In 1984, after Amsterdam, a film manifestation was also held in Groningen on the basis of his project 'Lilia Prado Superstar'.

Carrión's oeuvre has been extensively seen in recent years, Amsterdam (1992), Mexico City (2002), London (2010), Porto (2010), Madrid (2016). However, the first in this retrospective series was Groningen. In 1991 an exhibition took place here in the Centrum Beeldende Kunst, which was dedicated to Carrión. That was two years after the Dutch-Mexican artist died in Amsterdam and the retrospective marked the warm bond of Groningen with the heroes of the artist's book. Carrión was honored with this exhibition, because as an artist and theorist he was of great importance for the development of artist's books. Guest curator was Johan Deumens and Anne Moeglin-Delcroix wrote the introduction for the catalog.

Thanks in particular to pioneers such as Poul ter Hofstede in the Groninger Museum and Wim Beeren at the university Groningen, both of which have since been widely surpassed by ARTisBOOK, Groningen has always proved to be the port where artist publications have landed pleasantly. During the Week of the Artists Book in 2018, the University Library Groningen exhibited for the first time a selection of conceptual artists' books from its own collection, supplemented with works from private collections and the Groninger Museum. Extra attention was paid to the important artistry of Carrión.

With this digital exhibition, ARTisBOOK shows the beauty and versatility of Carrión's oeuvre, whose influence is still very strong among (young) artists.

Henk Woudsma

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