

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL

During 2018 I visited several primary and secondary schools of public administration of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires in Argentina, portraying teachers and their blackboards.

The teachers of public elementary and secondary schools of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires in Argentina pose in their favorite place of work. During the last years the economic situation of the country has deteriorated, as a consequence most teachers have several jobs.

In Argentina the public education is in a state of emergency; not only in building and budgetary matters, the teachers are among the lowest paid in Latin America, they are currently receiving a salary below the poverty line and are constantly attacked by the mass media.

If we observe the mass media, in what refers to this topic, we intuit a message where educational environments have to do with what is presumed to be negative. The images that circulate present in their majority an exhibition and constant exploitation of the image of children and teenagers, as well as a stigmatizing look on the teaching activity, linking it mainly - and assuming a negative vision - to an idea of mass and constant disagreement, invisibilizing and vexing in this way those who build the public school and their daily work.

Without desire of idealization I consider that the image on education should be valued; the motivation of this photographic project is to document and focus on other aspects that also build the school. Teachers who daily appropriate the spaces of the institutions to turn them into a place of enjoyment for children.

Short bio

Karen Toro.

Bachelor of Photography, professional retoucher and professor, lived and worked 10 years in Argentina. Diploma in Photographic Documentary Conservation and Research and in Design and Communication Pedagogy. He studied the Master in Education, Languages and Media. She was an associate professor in the fields of semiology, epistemology and aesthetics of images (Faculty of Philosophy and Letters - University of Buenos Aires). Photographer in La Periódica, feminist journalism digital magazine. She joined the editorial team of Bad Memory, Diary of a photographer by Daniel Merle, published articles in Trascamara: the image designed by photographers (ed. Alex Schlenker). He has trained with Maya Goded / Sub Coop, Daniel Tubío, Midia Ninja / Paradocs, Lorena Fernández, Daniel Merle, Alejandro Erbeta, Curatoría Forense / Al Zur-Ich. Selected for the Women Photograph Workshop 2019. Member of the research and artistic production laboratory Cátedra de Café (AR) and FluxusFoto (EC). Selected for the 4th Edition of the Brazil Emerging Art Award. Exhibitions: Narrativas Transitorias in No Lugar Gallery (2019). MAPPA with Cátedra de Café in Un Lugar Aparte (2018), Brazil Emerging Art Award in Quito Contemporary Art Center (2020).