



A B S E N T I A

MANUEL & CARLOS LEYVA
Bell foundry and destruction

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This book documents the foundry and destruction of a 550kg bronze bell in Tlahuelompa, Hidalgo.
A bell cast intentionally to never be rung, but instead remain silent until its destruction.

ABSENTIA was part of SIN, a solo exhibition by Mario de Vega curated by Carsten Seiffarth.

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Edition of 150







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UTROM





HIS MANGLED REMAINS SCATTERED UP AND DOWN THE LAND AND BURIED IN
DIFFERENT PLACES EXPRESSING THE SOWING OR THE
WINNOWING OF THE GRAIN THE SEVERED
LIMBS ON A CORN-SIEVE SLAYING A
VICTIM AND DISTRIBUTING HIS FLESH OR
SCATTERING HIS ASHES OVER THE FIELDS TO FERTILIZE
THE FIGURE TORN IN PIECES AND THE
FRAGMENTS BURIED IN THE GROUND TO MAKE THE
CROPS GROW BURN AND SCATTER THEIR ASHES WITH
WINNOWING FANS THE GOD HIMSELF,
ANNUALLY SLAIN, DISMEMBERED, AND
BURIED TO QUICKEN THE SEED IN THE EARTH
KINGS SLAIN AND DISMEMBERED TORN IN PIECES AFTER A
REIGN OF EIGHTEEN DAYS, COMMEMORATED BY A FESTIVAL THE FIRST
KING CUT IN PIECES BY THE SENATORS, WHO BURY THE FRAGMENTS
IN THE GROUND THE DAY OF HIS DEATH CELEBRATED WITH RITES
IMPIOUS MONARCHS RENT IN PIECES, ONE BY
THE FRENZIED BACCHANALS, THE OTHER BY
HORSES DISTORTED REMINISCENCES OF
SACRIFICING HUMAN BEINGS, DIVINE KINGS, IN THE CHARACTER OF A GOD
TORN LIMB FROM LIMB MEN RENT IN PIECES TORN LIMB FROM
LIMB IN THE CHARACTER OF THE GOD WHOSE DEATH THEY DIE THE
KING PUT TO DEATH SO THAT THE GROUND, WHICH HAS CEASED TO BE
FRUITFUL, MIGHT REGAIN FERTILITY HIS BODY CUT UP AND
BURIED IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF HIS KINGDOM FOR THE
FRUITFULNESS OF THE EARTH THE BODY DISTRIBUTED IN DIFFERENT PLACES









I call the living























I mourn the dead



























I repel lightning























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... and you, who disbelieves, shall read me



















































For my mother, the one who taught me, and could not find her path on this earth.

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