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MOVE OVER STARBUCKS GET A QUARTER TON ESPRESSO AT MOORE

Gallery Installation at Moore College of Art & Design is delivering quite a buzz

College students usually can't get enough of the stuff. Coffee, that is. But at Moore College of Art & Design, a Gallery installation is putting even devout java junkies on edge. The exhibition, "Actions After Actions," by acclaimed Brazilian artist Artur Barrio, uses 1,400 pounds of ground espresso in a cave-like installation in the Levy Gallery at Moore. That's enough ground espresso for 67,000 cups of coffee even more if you make it a Latte!

The first North American exhibition of works by Artur Barrio, an artist who is well known in Europe and South America has been conducting and documenting politically radical, aesthetically challenging "situations" since 1968. The show, includes a large new commission related to Barrio's installation of coffee, natural fibers, and scarified walls at Documenta 11 in Kassel, Germany. It has garnered wide interest among contemporary art curators and critics—the very people Barrio distrusts: "From critic to curators and from curators to bureaucracy . . . the curator is an unnecessary necessity."

"That much coffee is both alluring and repelling. It was hard enough to acquire that much coffee in the first place," says, Molly Dougherty, Executive Director of the Galleries at Moore. "Two days to grind and roast, another day to truck it in and five days for the artist to create the installation, which also includes 100 lbs. of flaked shellac, 200 loaves of bread, and 250 bottles of wine. The gallery staff complains of headaches; the students report stronger than usual cravings for coffee. In truth, the artist has achieved some of his goals: to create an artwork that is overwhelming to the senses and prompts an acute visceral reaction in the viewer."

According to the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), four out of five Americans have some caffeine on any given day, the average amount being about 200

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milligrams a day (approximately equivalent to what's found in two 8-ounce cups of coffee, three to four 12-ounce cans of caffeinated soda, or four 8-ounce cups of tea). Since one 12-ounce serving of a diet cola beverage has about 45 milligrams of caffeine, and you're consuming three to four two-liter bottles of it a day, then you're getting anywhere from 675 - 900 milligrams of caffeine a day, which is way above how much the average American gulps. Given these stats, it's no wonder that you're concerned about caffeine's effects on your health.

the Specialty Coffee Association of America (SCAA) has to say:

A cup is defined as 6 ounces of water before brewing. This will produce 5.33 ounces of brewed coffee. Or 125 ml & 110 ml for Euro style coffee makers

2.25 gallons per 1 lb. 128 ounces in one gallon

The exhibition which runs from February 8 through March 19 in the Paley and Levy Galleries, also includes digitally-projected films and slide sets, archival and duplicate notebooks, drawings, photographs, and objects. "Actions after Actions"—along with an accompanying scholarly catalog and international symposium—documents Barrio's work and brings it into closer contact with existing and emerging dialogs on North and South American, European, Asian, and African art.

The International Discovery Series, invites artists who, while significant, are not yet well known in North America. Barrio was selected for the Series by a committee comprising Pompidou Center curator Christine Macel, Paris; then independent curator Carlos Basualdo (now Philadelphia Museum of Art curator of contemporary art); and Institute of Contemporary Art senior curator Ingrid Schaffner, Philadelphia. Brian Wallace, director of exhibitions for the Galleries at Moore, organized the exhibition in close consultation with the artist.

The exhibition runs from February 8 through March 19 in the Goldie Paley Gallery at Moore College of Art & Design. Phone 215.965.4027 for more information.