

## multiplying meals

Artists Lucy and Jorge Orta's 70 x 7 The Meal, takes its starting point from a multiplication game designed to stimulate conviviality and communication. "We have reinterpreted the biblical signification 'forever' (Luke 17:4) using it as a pretext for multiple encounters of seven guests who each invite seven guests, who each invite seven guests... Ad infinitum," explains Lucy.

Initiated in 2002, the Ortas have staged over 40 meals across the world. Each

of the 26 versions of the meals has its own bespoke porcelain and hand-embroidered never-ending tablecloth. The unusual, provocative locations on bridges and in galleries also contribute to the experience.

"We transform the ancestral ritual of the meal into an ongoing series of dynamic events, networking people from different horizons, to eat, meet, discuss and debate important issues," the fashion designer turned artist continues.

Their oeuvre driven by a sense of social responsibility, the Ortas were originally inspired by the work of Rafael Garcia Herreros who created a series of fundraising banquets for the urban social development programme El Minuto de Dios, in the heart of a deprived area in Bogotá in Colombia. The funds raised through these dinners helped to build community schools, family housing with gardens, a theatre, a contemporary art museum, small factories and a university. His project

radically transformed one of the most abandoned zones of the city of Bogotá.

Says Orta: "On discovering his life-long work, we decided to continue in his memory. His vision demonstrates the energy and capacity of transformation that culture and education can play in regenerating and developing communities."

Photo by Thierry Bal.



## food political

The Conflict Kitchen in Pittsburgh is a take-out restaurant that only serves cuisine from countries that the United States is in conflict with. The food is served out of a take-out style storefront, which rotates identities every four months to highlight another country. Each iteration is augmented by events, performances and discussions about the culture, politics and issues at stake with each focus country – Iran, Afghanistan and Venezuela thus far. Through food, wrappers, programming and daily interactions with customers, Conflict Kitchen creates an ongoing platform for first-person discussion about international conflict, culture and politics.



## the waterprint of food

Through a pop-up restaurant at Beijing Design Week, the Wonderwater Cafe asked "How much water do you eat?" Although it is the first instalment of the project, the cafe is one of a series of Wonderwater projects curated by Jane Withers and Kari Korkman for the World Design Capital Helsinki 2012, and produced by Aalto University. The project aims to raise awareness of global water issues and design for a sustainable future.

