Excerpts from an interview with Layla Emmehainz, age two, after visiting Luis Barragan’s Egerstrom Stables, October 2013.

Kids in Puddles: Luis Barragan’s Egerstrom Stables

Getting Lost

We drove on the segundo piso (the periférico’s second floor) and listened to music and it was very far away—why did we get a little bit lost?

Mia Egerstrom

An apple and crackers over there! She gave me a cracker and had one sheep.

Lots of Cats

The crazy cats and the horses! The cats were crazy!

There were dogs and a pool, and lots of cats.

House for the Horses

There were lots of horses and a big house for the horses. Pink. To make things pretty.

The house is like that, it’s pink and it is very big.

It was a very big house with a big garden and two pools and a house for the horses.

Pools for Dogs and Horses

Why were there two pools? I don’t know. For the dogs? There was a swimming pool for the horses. There was a big fountain and the water was falling down.
Riding Horses

I played with the cats and dogs and a sheep.
I wanted to ride the horses. (If I was old, I
would ride the horses and paint sticks with lots
of colours so that the horses can jump over
them.)

Pilar Calveiro

Private and State Violence under Neo-liberalism

The transition from a bipolar to a globalized
world has involved an important and
differentiated use of violence, articulated by
new forms of the political, the social, and
the subjective. That is to say, in the new
world order, institutional power assumes
specific forms of violence that have significant
correspondences to the forms of political power
and social representation, and the social values
that render acceptable these forms of violence.

On the one hand, states manage commercial,
financial, and political organizations—such as
the International Monetary Fund and the World
Bank—that have implemented certain policies
in order to assure the worldwide expansion of
corporate powers. On the other hand, states
manage internal repressive apparatuses and
military forces that allow them control; they
function as the true guarantors of new forms of
wealth accumulation, either through persuasion
or imposition. In this scenario, State violence
plays a central role in the current process of
hegemonic reconfiguration; in turn, it has
reorganized itself mainly in two forms of war:
a) the so-called War Against Terror, which
includes the concentration camp model, however restricted, for the moment; and b) the
war against insecurity and organized crime,
which has led to the large-scale extension
and re-organization of the penal system. In
both cases, as the privatization of the means
of destruction and instruments of violence
proliferate, State violence is carried out both
by public and private organizations.

Nations worldwide have subjected
themselves to global security policies internally
and externally, adopting the language of war
scripted by the global world powers. The “War
Against Terror” and the “War Against Crime”
are wars waged on behalf of authoritarian
domination and enable the most radical forms of
repressive violence. The first allows for the
maintenance of the new global order by
replicating the concentration camp model (e.g.
Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib, and the web of CIA
“black sites”). The second, waged on behalf of a
State’s supposed internal security, uses juridical
and penal reorganization leading to increased
imprisonment, especially of the young poor
population. Both bellicose logics are intertwined,
dictated by world powers through the State
supranational State agencies, and are effective
tools for global hegemonic reorganization.

The “War” Against Terror

The end of the Cold War both opened up a
new phase for capitalism and represented an
obstacle for it. With the disappearance of the
communist “enemy,” the legitimacy of armed
intervention at the international level waned.
It therefore became necessary to find a new
enemy, to construct the figure of a dangerous
opponent of imprecise location and indefinite
power that would justify the strong-armed
actions necessary for global expansion. At
that time, drug-dealing nets seemed to offer
that new figure and already in 1987, one heard
about “the war on drugs.” Drug trafficking,
however, is too intertwined with the corporate
network and their economic interests to be
able to become a permanent, primary enemy.
Indeed, it constitutes one of the most profitable
global businesses, involving hundreds of
billions of dollars. Although it is extremely
difficult to establish quotes, in a conservative
estimate from 2011, the United Nations Office
on Drug and Crime calculated that global
income for drug trafficking was 320 billion