

Three South American Women Artists  
Regina Vater, Marie-Judite Dos Santos, Catalina Parra  
Robert C Morgan  
High Performance  
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### Fosa Comun

In an earth installation in Lexington New York (near Woodstock) in the summer of 1984, Catalina Parra dug a shallow trench about 20 feet in length over which she strung five rows of barbed wire. On either side of the trench, she placed gunny sacks filled with the dirt from the trench. The title of the piece, FOSA COMUN, is difficult to translate in American terms, but it refers to unidentified persons, victims who have been murdered and dumped somewhere before they are eventually found, usually in some state of dismemberment. Again, Parra does not state this as her meaning; she has faith in her materials and in her ability to give them significance. She recognizes the importance of the viewer's association with what is seen, with what is felt, and, most of all, with what is remembered. Her work is about not forgetting the impact of what we see, even though we might rather avoid it.