

PHOTO, MEDIA AND DIGITAL ART

Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art
Suite 124, Box 124
401 Richmond Street West
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 3A8
T 416.591.0357 F 416.591.0358
info@prefix.ca www.prefix.ca
Photo Magazine. Visual, Audio and Surround Art Galleries.
Reference Library. Small Press. Travelling Shows.

PREFIX.

For Immediate Release (August 31, 2011)

DAVID LAMELAS ACTIVELY OBSERVES TIME FOR TIFF FUTURE PROJECTIONS AT PREFIX

(Toronto) – Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art is pleased to present the North American premiere of *Time as Activity (Buenos Aires)*, an exhibition by pioneering conceptual artist **David Lamelas**. Consisting of a 16mm film projection and three colour photographs, the work captures varying views of the artist's native Buenos Aires. Curated by **Andréa Picard**, the exhibition is presented in collaboration with the **Future Projections** programme of the **Toronto International Film Festival**.

The exhibition will be presented from **Thursday, September 8 to Sunday, September 18, 2011**, at **Prefix**, located at 401 Richmond Street West, Suite 124, Toronto. For the duration of the exhibition, the gallery will be open daily from 12 to 5 PM. Admission is free.

Time as Activity (Buenos Aires) is part of an ongoing series of conceptual films developed by Lamelas over the course of forty years. Commencing in Dusseldorf in 1969, he filmed three distinct perspectives of the city in silent, static shots at points close to the Kunsthalle, where the work was subsequently exhibited. The only cuts appear between each unique view, where intertitles inform the viewer of the duration of each shot.

After producing similar works in Berlin, Los Angeles, New York, Saint Gallen and Fribourg, Lamelas chose for the seventh installment in the series his native Buenos Aires via its landmark Plaza del Congreso. In keeping with the self-imposed constraints of the series, the famous site is depicted from three different vantage points, each lasting approximately four minutes: a bird's-eye view with the Argentine flag intermittently visible, an interior view of the Senate chamber in session, and an exterior view revealing the flow of traffic on the Avenida de Mayo. Like the film, the trio of photographs that accompany the work directly reference these different views of the plaza. Seemingly innocuous, these images could serve as backdrops, but their sustained duration affords them new meaning.

This work invites from the viewer both suspense and impatience, boredom and expectation. As the anticipation of a narrative or event falls away, the subtleties of the everyday emerge: the rise and fall of the fountain at the centre of the plaza, the cyclical movement of the traffic, and the dance of the Argentine flag. Because the images serve more as depictions of duration than of objects, the work can lead to a certain self-awareness – a notion increasingly radical and nearly impossible to grasp in our frenetically paced world.

About the Artist

David Lamelas, born in Argentina in 1946, has led a nomadic existence, living in London, Los Angeles, New York, Brussels, Berlin and Paris. Currently, he divides his time between Buenos Aires and Los Angeles. Since the 1960s, he has been among the most important proponents of a conceptual approach to art. Known for his work in film and photography, as well as audio- and text-based installations, Lamelas tellingly began his career as a sculptor; his continuing explorations of time and space through film emerged from his desire "to produce sculptural forms without any physical volume." In 1967, he was the Argentinean representative at the 9th São Paulo Biennial, where he received the São Paulo Biennial Award; Lamelas also represented Argentina at the 34th Venice Biennale in 1968 and participated in Documenta 5 (Kassel, Germany) in 1972. He received a Guggenheim grant in 1993 and was awarded another grant in 1997 by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Recent solo exhibitions include the Museum für Gegenwartskunst (Basel), Secession (Vienna) and Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia (Madrid). Lamelas also recently participated in the group exhibition *The Quick and the*

Supported by



PHOTO, MEDIA AND DIGITAL ART

Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art
Suite 124, Box 124
401 Richmond Street West
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 3A8
T 416.591.0357 F 416.591.0358
info@prefix.ca www.prefix.ca

Photo Magazine. Visual, Audio and Surround Art Galleries.
Reference Library. Small Press. Travelling Shows.

PREFIX.

Dead at the Walker Arts Center (Minneapolis).

About the Curator

Andréa Picard is a programmer for TIFF Cinematheque, where, since 1999, she has programmed numerous retrospectives and thematic shows. Since 2006, she has curated the Wavelengths section of the Toronto International Film Festival and, in 2011, she also contributed to the Visions and Future Projections sections of the festival. An accomplished writer on film, art and architecture, her essays and articles have been published in *Border Crossings*, *Canadian Art*, *Flash Arts International* and *Prefix Photo*, among others. Picard has recently contributed essays to books on Swiss painter/filmmaker Hannes Schüpbach and Dutch installation artists Lonnie van Brummelen and Siebren de Haan.

About Prefix

Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art is a public art gallery and arts publishing house based in Toronto. A registered charitable organization, Prefix fosters the appreciation and understanding of contemporary photographic, media and digital arts. In 2010, Prefix celebrated ten years of programming excellence.

Acknowledgements

For their support of David Lamelas' *Time as Activity (Buenos Aires)*, Prefix gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Toronto Arts Council.

For more information, print-ready images or to schedule an interview, please contact:

Alysha Rajkumar
Operations Manager
T 416-591-0357
F 416-591-0358
E info@prefix.ca