

LEO XU PROJECTS

# **LEANDRO ERLICH**

**PORTFOLIO  
2013**

## Leandro Erlich

Leandro Erlich (b.1973) is widely renowned for his intriguing optical illusions that welcome his befuddled viewers to interact and explore. Artist's simple clean-look installations demonstrate his solid expertise in the field of architecture, reconstructing all sorts of everyday places into a baffling and deceptive visual maze. Viewers can walk into a horizontally built elevator shaft, stay dry in a swimming pool or spot a window up in the air. Artist employs his sophisticated design and technical devices to achieve impossible movie-like surrealistic scenes in real life, challenging our common sense and further delivering an altered reality.

Erlich likes to delude his viewers with usually the very familiar scenes, such as an open window, staircase, subway, hair salon, changing room and living room etc. that everybody would come cross in their daily routine. However, confronted by artist's highly manipulated space, viewers are amazed, physical laws are suspended, and surprises are intermitted with a sense of humour. One of his most acclaimed projects, *the Swimming Pool*, extensively exhibited in many prestigious venues like MoMA PS1 and the 49<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale etc, exemplifies his borrowing the very commonplace. Erlich constructed a full-size swimming pool including a deck and ladder, horizontally divided by a large piece of acrylic suspending water above it. Viewers approaching from the upper level would be astonished by the scene of others beneath the surface of the water standing, walking and breathing as freely as on the ground. It completely goes beyond usual logic of how we see people in a standard swimming pool. However, Erlich doesn't want to hide his trick as magicians do. They were aimed to be discovered. He said, "The trick is not presented to deceive the viewer, but to be understood and resolved by him/her."

Mirrors, transparent glass and Lighting/video are among the key elements for Erlich to assemble his mind-bending visual effect. Except the *Swimming Pool*, another work *Changing Room* for example, consists of a line of identical shopping mall changing rooms with only two mirrors in each and a shared wall opening framed like the third mirror. Infinitive repetition of the mirror reflection thus creates a puzzling and sci-fi felt maze. In *Las Puertas* from the 26<sup>th</sup> Sao Paulo Biennale in 2004, artist light up the bottom part of doors, and viewers in the dark space were misled to assume that the other side is bright. Similar tricks can be found in many other works such as *Double Tea*, 2010, *Le Cabinet du Psy*, 2005, *Skylight*, *The Clouds Story*, 2009, *Elevator Pitch*, 2011 and *Window Captive Reflection*, 2013 etc.

Part of Erlich's works shows strong influence from the surreal and sinister aesthetic of film directors Alfred Hitchcock, David Lynch, Luis Buñuel and Roman Polanski. In *Staircase*, Erlich draw inspiration from a staircase scene in Alfred Hitchcock's film. But his whole staircase was set in a horizontal way, allowing people to see stairs of one level after another scrawling down into the distance from a cameraman's perspective. It put viewers in an uncertain situation, misled them and disturbed their perception. Other works like *Stuck Elevator*, 2011, *The Room(Surveillance)*, 2006, *The View*, 1997-2005, and *Neighbours*, 1996 etc, all rendered people a Hitchcocknesque voyeuristic view, forcing them out from their comfort zone.

Erlich's projects travel to a variety of countries. He favoured great popularity from his heartfelt concern on the local cultures or history as well as his dazzling trick. Viewers can often respond to the familiar backdrops they are living with at the same time trapped in for a moment of surprise. The *Reflective Optical Illusion House* installation shown in many cities, one as *Dalston House*, recently presented in the 2013 London Festival of Architecture, one as *Batiment* from 2004 *Nuit Blanche* in Paris and another one in Tsumari festival Japan, to name a few, became a block-busting art project everywhere it went. For *Dalston House*, Artist lays down the façade of a late nineteenth-century Victorian terraced house on the ground and hangs a large-scale mirror over head at 45 degree angle. It allows visitors to walk, climb or dangle freely against gravity in the reflections. Likewise, Families in Paris came to experience on the surface of a Parisian Haussmann-style building façade; children in Japan can be photographed in front of their Japanese house.

Erlich has also brought several pieces to China. As early as in 2002, he created *El Ballet Studio*, featuring three Tai-Chi performers specifically for Shanghai Biennale. And in 2008, as part of Chanel Mobile Art exhibition touring from Hong Kong, Tokyo to New York, Erlich created a touching work of water reflection depicting the Parisian streetscape leading to the Chanel boutique.

Erlich enjoys an early positive acceptance by many established art critics. They compared some of his works with that of Magritte, Hopper and Hitchcock, or a reminiscent of Cindy Sherman. Holland Cotter from New York Times heralded Erlich's *TOURISMO* at the Venice Biennale, "is among the best." Huffingtonpost commented on others, "Each piece is wonderfully escapist, allowing the visitor to totally immerse themselves in a piece of art, if only for a moment." And the Barbican center in London, Europe's largest arts centre assures us Erlich's *Dalston House*, "it's one of those bafflingly brilliant cultural oddities that has to be seen to be believed-and will surely generate a lot of 'wows' from both kids and adults alike."

Erlich participated in several artist residencies in Paris and won the Eliza Prize from the Core Program he took part in in 1998, Houston, Texas. In addition, he was awarded the Joan Mitchell Foundation Award Unesco Prize during Istanbul Biennial in 2001. Erlich's works had been presented in many prestigious art institutes and Biennales, such as MoMA P.S.1 and the Whitney Biennial in New York, Museo de Arte Contemporanea in Rome, Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, Tsumari Triennale in Japan, Centre George Pompidou and Palais de Tokyo in Paris, and the 49<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Venice Biennial etc. Erlich's works have gone to a lot of private and public collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, Buenos Aires; The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Tate Modern, London; Musee d'Art Moderne, Paris; 21st Century Museum of Art Kanazawa, Japan; MACRO, Rome; FNAC, France, etc.

Leandro lives and works in Buenos Aires and Paris.

## LEANDRO ERLICH

### BIOGRAPHY

1973 Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Lives and works in Buenos Aires and Paris

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 *Lost Garden*, Galería Nogueras-Blanchard, Madrid, Spain  
*Dalston House*, Barbican, London, United Kingdom.  
Tecnopolis, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2012 *Leandro Erlich*, Galeria Ruth Benzacar, Buenos Aires, Argentina.  
*Leandro Erlich: Inexistence*, SongEun Art space, Seoul, Korea.  
*Le Bâtiment*, Usina del Arte, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2011 *Two Different Tomorrows*, Sean Kelly Gallery, New York, New York.  
*Leandro Erlich*, Galleria Continua, Le Moulin, Boissy-le-Château, France.
- 2010 *Leandro Erlich*, Jardin Perdido/Lost Garden, Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach, California.
- 2009 *Leandro Erlich*, Luciana Brito Gallery, São Paulo, Brazil.  
*Instalaciones. Leandro Erlich*, Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain.
- 2008 *Leandro Erlich: Miniature Models of Larger Projects*, Barcelona, Spain.  
*Leandro Erlich: Swimming Pool*, P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, Museum of Modern Art, Long Island City, New York.  
*Leandro Erlich: Changing Rooms*, Galleriacontinua, San Gimignano, Italy.
- 2007 *Leandro Erlich*, Galeria Ruth Benzacar, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 2006 *Leandro Erlich*, Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, ArtBasel, Miami, Florida.  
*Leandro Erlich*, Galeria Brito Cimino, São Paulo, Brazil.  
*Leandro Erlich*, MACRO Museo de Arte Contemporanea Rome, Italy.
- 2005 *Leandro Erlich*, Albion Gallery, London, England.  
*Leandro Erlich*, Le Grand Café- Centre d'art Contemporain, Saint Nazaire, France.  
*Leandro Erlich*, Galeria Nogueras/Blanchard, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2003 *Leandro Erlich*, Centre d'art Santa Monica, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2002 *Leandro Erlich*, Galerie Gabrielle Maubrie, Paris, France.

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- 2001 *NEIGHBORS: an installation by Leandro Erlich*, El Museo del Barrio, New York, New York.  
*TOURISM* (collaboration with Judi Werthein), Kent Gallery, New York, New York.
- 2000 *6 feet under* (collaboration with Judi Werthein), White Box Gallery, New York, New York.  
*Leandro Erlich*, Ruth Benzacar Gallery, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 1999 *El Living*, Kent Gallery, New York, New York.  
*Rain*, Moody Gallery, Houston, Texas.
- 1997 *Inner City*, General Consulate of Argentina, New York, New York.
- 1993 *Leandro Erlich*, Centro Cultural Recoleta, Buenos Aires, Argentina.  
*Leandro Erlich*, Espacio Giesso, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 1991 *Leandro Erlich*, Centro Cultural Recoleta, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 *Lifelike*, Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas.  
*Jardin Invisible*, Hospice Saint Charles, Rosny-sur-Seine, France
- 2012 *INSITU – Arte en Espacio Público*, Bariloche, Argentina.  
*Lifelike*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota.  
*Echigo-Tsumari Triennale*, Niigata, Japan  
*Mind the System*, Find the Gap, Art museum Z33, Hasselt, Belgium.  
*Fantastic 2012*, Lille, France.  
*Le Voyage à Nantes*, Biennal de L'Estuaire, Nantes, France Louvre Abu Dhabi,  
Gardens of Manarat Al Saadiyat.  
The Armory Show, New York, USA  
*More Real?*, SITE Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico.  
*Fruits de la passion*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France.
- 2011 *In Perceptions*, Espace 104, Paris, France.  
Museo de arte moderno de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Paris Delhi Bombay, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
- 2010 Mudam Collection, Mudam Luxembourg, Luxembourg.  
*Caves Vranken/Pommery*, Reims, France  
*Lugar Algum*, SESC Pinheiros, São Paulo, Brazil  
Setouchi International Art Festival, Japan
- 2009 *Argentina Hoy*, Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, São Paulo, Brazil  
Art in the Auditorium, Fundación PROA, Buenos Aires, Argentina

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- 2008 *Artists' Speculations - Four Generations in the Mirror*, Museo Carlo Bilotti, Rome, Italy.  
*Spheres '08*, Galleria Continua / Le Moulin, Paris, France.  
*Leandro Erlich and Lene Berg*, Whitechapel, London, United Kingdom.  
Project New Orleans, Prospect 1, New Orleans, Louisiana.  
Chanel Mobile Art, Hong Kong, China; Central Park, New York.  
Singapore Biennale, Singapore.  
Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool, England.
- 2007 *Fortunate Objects: Selections from the Ella Fontanals-Cisneros Collection*, Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation, Miami, USA  
*Stereovision: From 2D to 3D*, University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa, USA  
*Futuresystems: Rare Moments*, Lentos Museum of Modern Art, Linz, Austria  
*Reconstruction #2*, Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, England  
*Desplazamientos Entre la Escultura y la Instalación*, Casa de Cultura, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 2006 *Echigo-Tsumari*, Art Triennial, Japan.  
Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, Paris, France.  
*ArtesMundi Prize*, National Museum, Cardiff, Wales  
*Notre Histoire*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France  
*Espacio Interior*, PhotoEspaña 06, Madrid, Spain
- 2005 51st Biennale di Venezia, Padiglione, Italy.  
Offshore Prix Ricard, Paris, France.  
*The Plain of Heaven*, Meatpacking District, New York, USA
- 2004 *La Nuit Blanche*, Paris, France.  
POLIPHONY permanent installation 21st Century Museum of Art, Kanazawa, Japan.  
Bienal do Sao Paulo, Brazil.  
*Doubtful*, Universite de Rennes, France.
- 2003 *Printemps de Septembre*, Toulouse, France.  
Art Unlimited, Basel, Switzerland.
- 2002 *Urban Creation*, Shanghai Biennale, China.  
Busan Biennial, Korea.  
*Faster than the eye*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, California.  
*Politicas de la Diferencia*, Museo de Arte Latinoamericano, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 2001 *Leandro Erlich: The Swimming Pool*, 49th Venice Biennale, Fondaco dei Tedeschi via Rialto, Venice, Italy.  
7th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey.  
*VOX 2001*, Kent Gallery, New York, New York.
- 2000 *TOURISM* (collaboration with Judi Werthein), 7th Havana Biennale, Havana, Cuba.  
Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York.

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*Natural Deceits: Ten Texas Artists*, Modern Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas.

- 1999      *Core 1999*, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas.  
            *Paralelos / Paralelas*, Fondo Nacional des las Artes, ARCO Madrid, Spain.
- 1998      *Core 1998*, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas.
- 1997      First Mercosur Biennale Art Show, Porto Alegre, Brazil.
- 1996      AEIUO Installations, Centro Cultural Recoleta, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 1995      *Twelve Argentinian Artists*, United Nations, Buenos Aires, Argentina.  
            *Taller De Barracas*, Ruth Benzacar Gallery, Buenos Aires, Argentina.  
            *Spring Roll* (collaboration with Judith Werthein) Peru Square, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

### SELECTED AWARDS

- 2006      Nomination, ArtesMundi Prize, Wales.  
            Nomination, Prix Marcel Duchamp, Paris, France.
- 2004      Residence, Centre International d' Accueil et d' Echanges des Recolletts, Paris, France.
- 2002      Artist Residency, Cite International des Arts, Paris, France
- 2001      Joan Mitchell Foundation Award Unesco Prize, Istanbul Biennial
- 2000      Premio Leonardo Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 1998      Eliza Prize, Core Program, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas.
- 1997      Core Program, Pan-American Cultural Exchange-Fundacion Antorchal, Houston, Texas.
- 1995      Mention of honor, Braque Prize of Objects, French Embassy, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 1994      Taller de Barracas Core Fellowship, Fundacion Antorchas, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 1992      Fondo Nacional de las Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

### PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan  
Fonds National d'Art Contemporain (FNAC), Paris, France  
George Eastman House, New York, New York  
The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel  
Tate Modern, London, England  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas  
The Museum of Modern Art, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Musée d'Art moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, France  
Museo de Arte Contemporanea Roma (MACRO), Rome, Italy  
Polaroid Collection, Massachusetts, Massachusetts

LEO XU PROJECTS

## **SELECTED WORKS**

**By**  
**Leandro Erlich**





*Monte-Meubles, L'ultime Déménagement, 2012*

Le Voyage à Nantes 2012, Nantes, France



*Elevator Maze, 2011*

Metal structure, wood, stainless steel, mirrors, button panel, lights

Overall: 102 1/2 x 195 1/4 x 115 1/4 inches (260.4 x 495.9 x 292.7 cm)

Edition of 3 with 1 AP

Work is accompanied by a signed certificate of authenticity

LE-16



*El Avión, 2011*

Galería Nogueras Blanchard, Madrid, Spain

Galleria Continua, Le Moulin, France



*Elevator Shaft, 2011*

Mixed media, metal structure, metal doors, gypsum panels, lights

Dimensions variable

Unique

Work is accompanied by a signed certificate of authenticity

LE-19





*Elevator Shaft, 2011*

Mixed media, metal structure, metal doors, gypsum panels, lights

Dimensions variable

Unique

Work is accompanied by a signed certificate of authenticity

LE-19

## LEO XU PROJECTS



*Log Cabin, 2009*

Resin, metal, wood, paint, 2 Blue Ray DVDs, 2 Plasma screens, 2 Blue ray DVD players

Approximate dimensions: 97 x 86 1/4 x 21 1/4 inches

(246 x 219 x 54 cm)

Edition of 5 with 2 APs

LE-12



*Shattering Door, 2009*

Wood, mdf, air-brush paint, metal structure

82 5/8 x 15 3/4 x 35 3/8 inches

(210 x 40 x 90 cm)

Edition of 3 with 1 AP

LE-9

## LEO XU PROJECTS



*La Torre*, 2008

Installation at Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid

Mixed media

Dimensions variable





*Swimming Pool* at MoMA P.S.1, 2008

Installation at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City

mixed media

dimensions variable

LE-5

Photo: Matthew Septimus

Courtesy: The Artist, P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center and Sean Kelly Gallery, New York



*Swimming Pool* at the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan



*Swimming Pool* at the 49<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, 2001





*Window and Ladder-Too Late for Help, 2008*

Installation at Prospect.1, New Orleans

metal ladder, underground hidden metal structure, aluminum frames, fiberglass brick wall

14 3/4 x 5 1/4 feet

(4.5 x 1.6 meter)

LE-4

## LEO XU PROJECTS



*Dalston House, London, 2013*



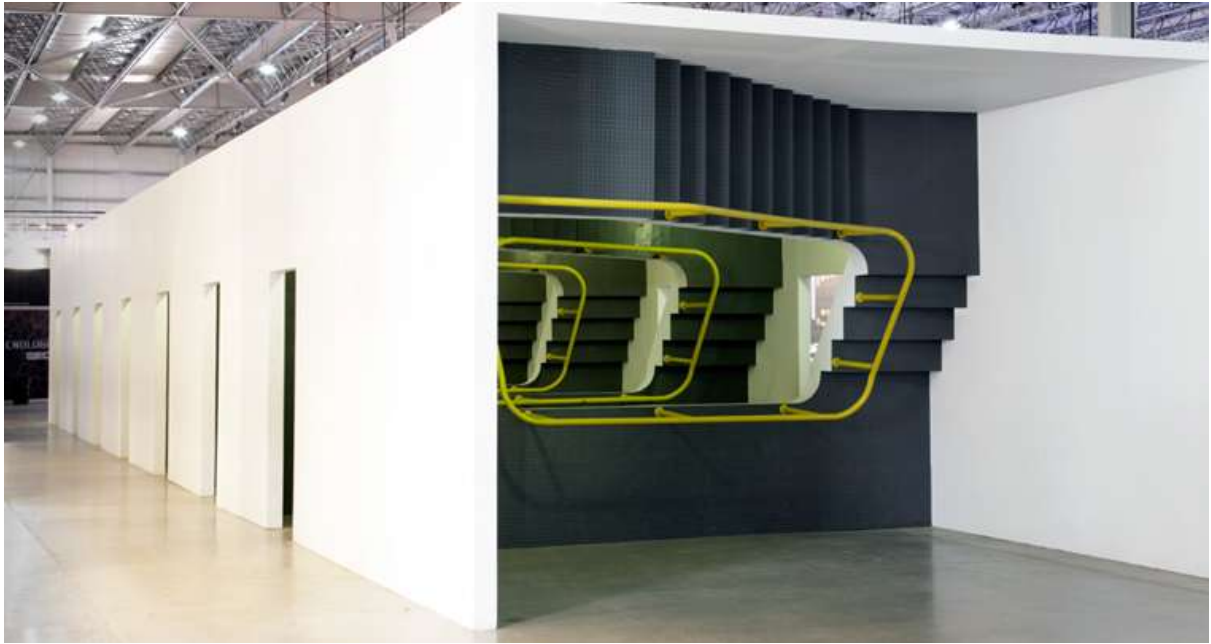
*Tsumari House*, 2006, Tsumari Triennial, Japan



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*Batiment*, 2004 , Paris  
26 x 20 x 40 feet  
(800 x 600 x 1200 cm)  
Building façade print (backlit), 45 °mirror



Leandro Erlich, *The Staircase*, 2012





*The Staircase*, 2005  
14 3/4 x 11 1/2 x 50 feet  
(450 x 350 x 1500 cm)  
Metal structure, wood, vinyl tiles



*El Ballet Studio, 2002*

Dimensions variable

Three identical rooms, three Tai-Chi performers, two mirror walls



*Le Cabinet du Psy* , 2005

Presented at

Centre d'art Contemporain Le Grand Cafe.

Saint Nazaire, France.

Galeria Brito Ciminio, Sao Paulo.

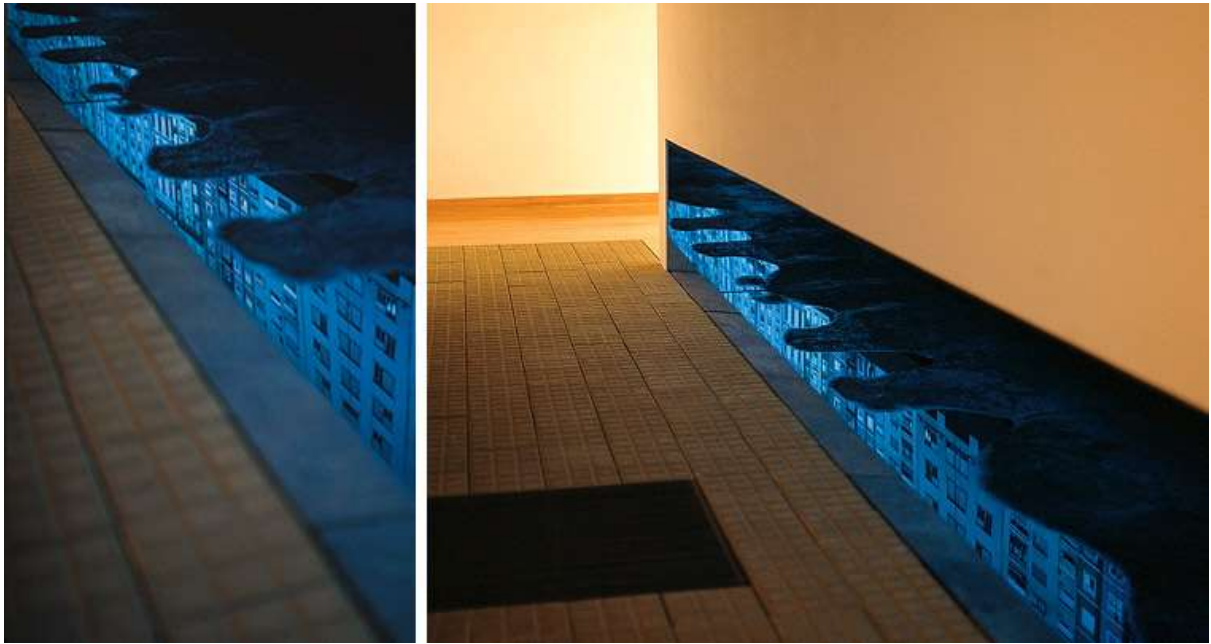
Galleria Continua, San Gimignano, Italy

Fundación PROA, Buenos Aires.



*Changing Rooms*, 2008  
Galleria Continua, San Gimignano, Italy

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*La Plaza, 2005*

Presented at

Centre d'art Contemporain Le Grand Cafe.

Saint Nazaire, France



## Press

## Leandro Erlich, MoMA PS1, Leandro Erlich: Swimming Pool

## MOMA PS1

EXHIBITIONS CALENDAR PROGRAMS ABOUT SUPPORT VISIT CONNECT SEARCH



## Leandro Erlich: Swimming Pool

October 18, 2008–April 12, 2010

Long-term installation

PS1 Contemporary Art Center presents Leandro Erlich: *Swimming Pool*, an extraordinary and visually confounding installation by the Argentine artist Leandro Erlich. *Swimming Pool* will be on view in PS1's unique, double-height Duplex gallery from October 18, 2008 through April 12, 2010.

Leandro Erlich is known for installations that seem to defy the basic laws of physics and befuddle the viewer, who is introduced into jarring environments that momentarily threaten a sense of balance or space. For this exhibition, Erlich presents one of his most well-known and critically acclaimed pieces, *Swimming Pool*. Speaking about the project, Erlich says: "When I first visited P.S. 1, I remember thinking how perfect the Duplex space would be for the installation of *Swimming Pool*. This space denied the experience of seeing the work perfectly, and in the correct order. Almost ten years since its creation, *Swimming Pool* is finally in the exhibition space for which I have always felt is so perfectly suited."

Erlich has constructed a full-size pool, complete with all its trappings, including a deck and a ladder. When approached from the first floor, visitors are confronted with a surreal scene: people, fully clothed, can be seen standing, walking, and breathing beneath the surface of the water. It is only when visitors enter the Duplex gallery from the basement that they recognize that the pool is empty; its construction a visual trick facilitated by the artist. A large, continuous piece of acrylic spans the pool and suspends water above it, creating the illusion of a standard swimming pool that is both disorienting and humorous.

Leandro Erlich (b. 1973, Buenos Aires) has been exhibiting his work internationally for over ten years. He has had solo shows at the Centre d'Art Santa Mònica, Barcelona (2003); MACRO Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma (2006); and Le Grand Café, Centre d'Art Contemporain de Saint-Nazaire (2006). He represented Argentina at the 49<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale (2001), where he showed *Swimming Pool*, and was also featured in the Singapore Biennale (2008), the Liverpool Biennial (2008), 7<sup>th</sup> Havana Biennale (2004), the 7<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Biennial (2001), the 3<sup>rd</sup> Shanghai Biennale (2002), the 1<sup>st</sup> Busan Biennale (2000), and the 25<sup>th</sup> Bienal de São Paulo (2004). His work will be shown in the upcoming Prospect 1 New Orleans Biennial in 2009. He lives and works in Buenos Aires.

Leandro Erlich



Swimming Pool, 2008 →

Leandro Erlich



Swimming Pool, 2008 →

Organized by P.S. 1 Curator Anna Hsing.

The exhibition is made possible by David Talbot, Estrella B. Roderoy and Galería Patricia Phillips de Cordero.

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On View →

Upcoming →

Past →

2013 →

2012 →

2011 →

2010 →

2009 →

2008 →

Minus Space

Yael Bartov

Geo De Donckele

Invited Doc. Art for a  
Forgotten Faith

Leandro Erlich: *Swimming  
Pool*

Boris Saifov

International and National  
Projects Fall 2008 - October

Daryl Ann Pinnat: Maps,  
Ramps, and Patches  
Others

Olufé Okunribido

That Was There, This Is  
Here

Young Architects Program  
2008: 1st 1st Public Park  
Crew

Acto Invisível: New Art  
from Portugal

Have You Seen Him?

Ryan McGinnis

WACID Art and the  
Feminist Revolution

2007 →

2006 →

2005 →

2004 →

2003 →

2002 →

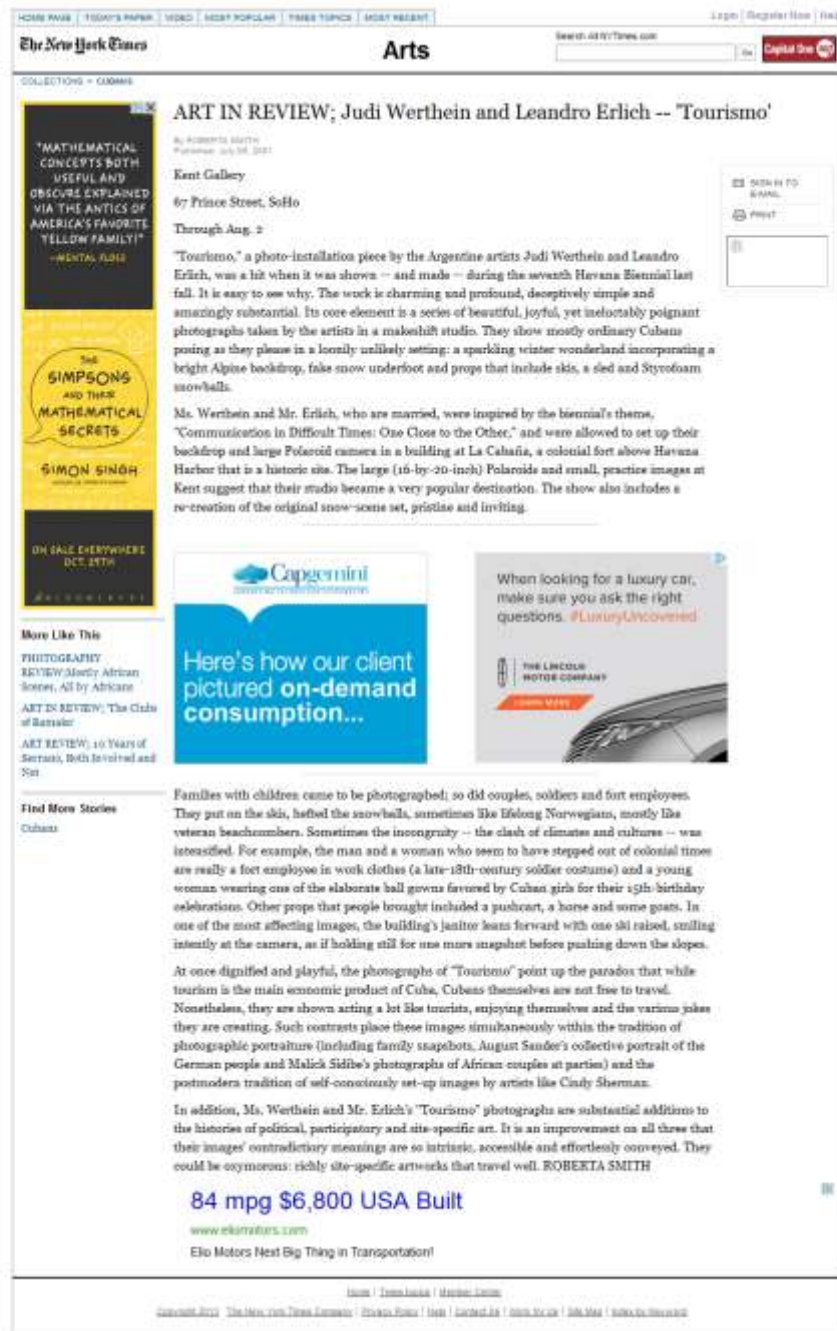
2001 →

2000 →

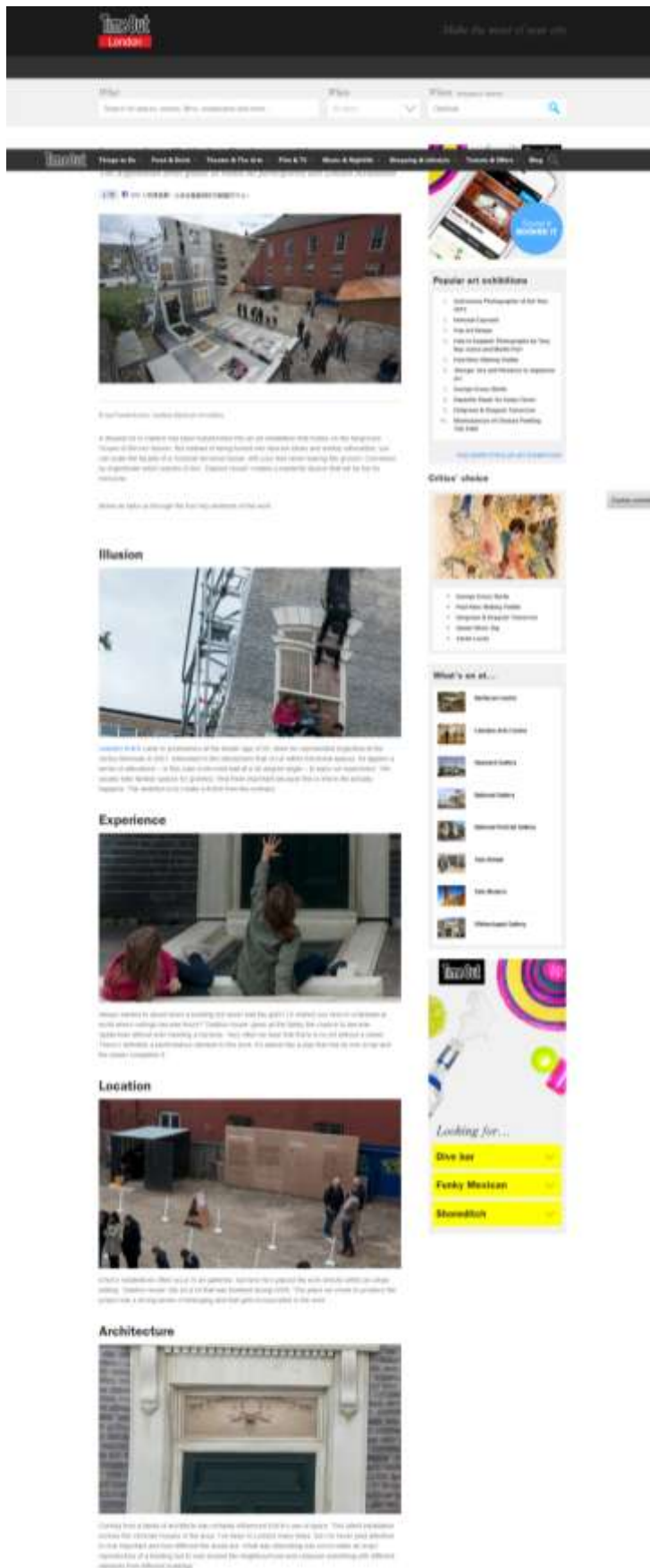
1999 →

Long-term →

Leandro Erlich, New York Times, *ART IN REVIEW: Judi Werthein and Leandro Erlich--- "Tourism"*, Roberta Smith, 2001



## Leandro Erlich, Time Out, *Leandro Erlich: Dalston House*, 2013





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Leandro Erlich, BBC NEWS



Leandro Erlich, at Richard Branson Twitter, 2013

