

DIAZ CONTEMPORARY

June 15 2006
Press Release

ALEXANDER IRVING
POLITICAL SCIENCE: NEW PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS

JUNE 15 – JULY 23, 2006
OPENING SATURDAY JUNE 17, 2-5 PM

Artist in attendance

Diaz Contemporary is pleased to present Toronto-based artist Alexander Irving's first solo exhibition with the gallery.

For Political Science, Alexander Irving shows a series of new paintings and drawings that mediate reflections on the daily influx of information on political upheaval, global strife, and more mundane aspects of being through a hybridised veil of classic comedy references, disembodied cartoon limbs, idealistic Modern architecture rendered abject, and the iconic language of Cubist painting.

Irving's canvases combine the iconography of Tex Avery's Looney Tunes, the gloved hands and paddle-like feet of Disney characters, and painting influences ranging from Phillip Guston to Cubism, presented through a muted palette warmed by Naples yellow, or made chilly with flat blacks and blues to create absorbing panoplies of limbs and facial features flailing through blocky landscapes. This series of paintings create surprising new windows into diurnal metaphysical and socio-political concerns.

The first of the two series of Irving's drawings on display are spare, graphite works, scumbled with eraser and drawn with acuity of line and precision of insight, which conflate classic comedy and cartoon tropes with obfuscated quotes from political figures. A second series features Buckminster Fuller's geodesic domes decomposing into shanty-like tarpaper shacks, kept company by the presence of carefully drawn tools of the trade of Buster Keaton and his ilk, such as banana peels and brooms. Where heady Modernism has failed, the fool comes in to use levity to bolster its downfall, murmuring witticisms into the ear of the fallen king.

Alexander Irving has shown extensively across Canada, with exhibitions at Robert Birch Gallery, Mercer Union, YYZ, and Gallery 101.

The artist wishes to acknowledge the generous support of the following funding bodies:



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
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GEORGINA BRINGAS AND RICARDO RENDON
MEASURES AND PROCESS

JUNE 15–JULY 23, 2006
OPENING SATURDAY JUNE 17, 2–5 PM

Artists in attendance

It is with pleasure that Diaz Contemporary presents the first Canadian solo exhibitions of young, Mexico City-based, emerging artists Georgina Bringas and Ricardo Rendon.

Georgina Bringas's practice operates under her overarching investigation into the units and measurements that have been devised as ways in which to quantify time, space, and the things that reside within them. She creates gorgeously spare video, sculpture, sound, and installation works that examine how these standards are codified and manufactured, and takes particular interest in their potential relationship to each other, and to the physical body; Bringas renders the empirical metaphysical.

For her first exhibition with the gallery, Georgina is showing a series of site-specific works that take into account the particular means of measure to be found in Canada and the gallery, creating comparisons, and searching for meaningful results.

Ricardo Rendon creates sculpture and installation works within the rubric of his ongoing project Forced Labor. Starting from the conceptual touchstone of the work executed by e.g. chain gangs as being work without meaning, performed as a filler for idle time, Rendon applies the materials and methods of common labour practices to his art production, mining the aesthetic from the workaday.

In Measures and Process, Rendon shows new works created while in Canada, using elements drawn from construction sites and reclamation stores, and materials imported from Mexican hardware stores blended with those bought in Toronto. Rendon terms his pieces sculptural events that focus on the aesthetic of the materials, methods, and output of ordinary labour practices. In this way he gives meaning to his own creative output, and configures his investigation into one on the meaning of art making.

Georgina Bringas has exhibited extensively in Mexico and internationally, with exhibitions at Washington DC's Cultural Center BID, and participation in Rome's IILA Video Art Competition, and Come Closer at Berlin's Kunstlerhaus Bethanien.

Ricardo Rendon has an extensive Mexican and international exhibition record, having shown at ARCO 2005, Berlin's Kunstlerhaus Bethanien, Videobrasil 03, Videolisboa, and Mexico City's Tamayo Museum, and The Carrillo Gil Arts Museum, amongst others.

In conjunction with their exhibition at Diaz Contemporary, Bringas and Rendon will be Artists-in-Residence at the Drake Hotel for the month of June. For more information on their residency at the Drake, visit the Drake's website at www.thedrakehotel.ca, or contact Jillian Locke, Drake Hotel Visual Arts Administrator, at 416-531-5042, ext. 230, or jillian@thedrakehotel.ca.

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