

## Luis Camnitzer: Playing with Ideas

MORRIS AND HELEN BELKIN ART GALLERY, VANCOUVER SEP 30 TO DEC 4 2011

by MARIAM NADER



Luis Camnitzer *Landscape as an Attitude* 1979 Courtesy Daros Latinamerica Collection Zürich / photo Peter Schälchli

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Conceptual art sometimes gets a bad rap for being too heavy-handed or dependent on intellectual prerequisites. However, flirting with the rigid foundations of conceptualism can result in pieces of art that are thoughtful without being ostentatious, and installations that are playful without being clumsy. These are the types of works for which [Luis Camnitzer](#), currently the focus of a survey at the [Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery](#) in Vancouver, is known.

Camnitzer, a German-born Uruguayan based in New York City, is a respected artist, theorist and educator who's made contributions to the field of conceptual art by focusing on the ways it can engage rather than exclude.

"I'm interested in minimal input and maximal output," he says in [a conversation posted to the Belkin's YouTube channel](#). "I'm not reducing myself to a particular shape, form or material, or lack thereof. I'm more interested in how to activate an environment and people with some minimal stimulus so that there's more room for resonance and more room for creativity on the side of the public."



Luis Camnitzer *Arbitrary Objects and Their Titles* 1979/2011 Courtesy Daros Latinamerica Collection Zürich / photo David Aiken, Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery

