

Alexander Gray Associates

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Luis Camnitzer, *Bricks* (1974/2012), photo mural, dimensions variable

Luis Camnitzer

September 12 - October 20, 2012

Alexander Gray Associates is pleased to present its third individual exhibition with Luis Camnitzer, whose contributions since the 1960s to the development of Latin American contemporary art and international Conceptual Art have garnered significant recognition in recent years. The exhibition in the Gallery's newly expanded space includes the premiere of two installation works by Camnitzer.

Realized for the first time, *Bricks* (1974/2012) covers the Gallery walls at 10-feet high with black and white photographic murals of bricks and mortar, transforming the space into a place of confinement. In the piece, the image of four brick walls, each photographed from different distances, resulting in a distorted perspective of proximity, scale and location. With *Bricks*, conceived at the early period of the Uruguayan dictatorship, the piece obscures any cues for cardinal directions, human scale, and the relationship of the body within its environment, imposing boundaries on the viewers' experience. In Camnitzer's oeuvre, *Bricks* is a departure from his text-based works of the 60s, using photographic rather than linguistic signs as tools to alter meaning; subsequent photographic works from the mid-1970s are among the artist's most iconic.

Disorientation plays a central role in the viewer's experience again with *The Shift of the Center of the Earth* (1975). The installation is composed of a mason's plumb suspended from the ceiling, skewed at an angle, seemingly defying natural laws of gravity. This repurposed tool—a trusted guide to our geographic or physical center—leads us astray; Camnitzer's manipulation of the plumb leaves us doubting which way is down. Here too, Camnitzer questions the role of an individual in our social and political worlds, as well as our psychological: who determines location, myself or the world around me? Camnitzer's Duchampian gesture—repositioning a found object—certainly addresses the realignment of global politics and capital.

Luis Camnitzer is currently the subject of a major traveling retrospective on view in Museo de Arte Moderno de Medellín, Colombia, organized by Daros Latinamerica and curated by Hans Michael Herzog and Katrin Steffen. His work has appeared in numerous exhibitions since the early 1960s, including solo exhibitions at the Museo de Arte de Ponce, Puerto Rico; Kemper Art Museum, St. Louis, MO; *Pensar Latinoamérica desde la Colección MUSAC*, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, León, Spain; The Kitchen and El Museo del Barrio, New York; List Visual Arts Center at M.I.T., Cambridge; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, San José, Costa Rica; and Museo Carillo Gil, Mexico City. Retrospectives of his work have been presented at Lehman College Art Gallery in the Bronx (1991) and Kustshalle Kiel (2003). His work has appeared in biennials and group exhibitions, including *Information* (1970), The Museum of Modern Art, New York; *Biennial of Havana* (1984, 1986, 1991 and 2009); *Whitney Biennial* (2000), *Documenta 11* (2002), and *Beyond Geometry* (2005), Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Camnitzer's work is in the permanent collections of The Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Tate Modern, London; Daros-Latinamerica Collection, Zurich; Israel Museum, Jerusalem; and Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (MALBA), among other institutions. Camnitzer received Guggenheim Fellowships in 1961 and 1982. A highly regarded critic and curator, Camnitzer recently received the Frank Jewett Mather Award for his compilation of essays, *On Art, Artists, Latin America, and Other Utopias* (2009), and is a frequent contributor to *ArtNexus*, *New Art of Cuba* (1994, 2003) and *Conceptualism in Latin American Art: Didactics of Liberation* (2007).

Alexander Gray Associates is a contemporary art gallery based in New York. The gallery has established a profile for high-quality exhibitions focused on mid-career artists who emerged in the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. Influential in political, social and cultural spheres, these artists are notable for creating work that crosses geographic borders, generational contexts and artistic disciplines. Gallery hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM.