

## MexiCali Biennial 2009/10

First Exhibition:

June 20-August 1, 2009

La Casa del Túnel: Art Center

Calle Chapo Márquez 133 Colonia Federal

Tijuana BC, México

Opening Reception: 7-11 PM, June 20, 2009



"It is the between that is tainted with strangeness." –Helène Cixous

The first MexiCali Biennial took place in Mexicali in 2006 with the idea of producing an exhibition featuring artists from California and Mexico. The addendum of "Biennial" was a deliberate political choice—to add to an art show in Mexicali a term that came with the baggage of art-world prestige and exhaustion, a Biennial at a time when no one could stand the thought of another one. The aim was to provide artists with an opportunity to respond to and transgress the overarching environmental context of the production and display of their work with a notion of conversation that engages both with the heavily funded and institutionalized Biennial framework within the artworld and the less formal and often more innovative process of bi-national exchange that happens every day. The work that resulted was varied and exhilarating, and the MexiCali Biennial will take place again this year and in 2009.



Susana Rodriguez, Proyecto Monopoly, 2009

The upcoming exhibition in Tijuana is the first of three iterations of the second MexiCali Biennial. Through these events, we aim to provide a platform for border crossing, progressive art exhibitions and events. Treating the border as an uncanny and liminal construct, these interventions, installations and performances encourage dynamic cultural exchanges that resonate within the fluid context of the territory covering Mexico and California. Concentrating on the border as an idea or a site of transgressions, this biennial distinguishes itself by tapping into a unique aesthetic derived from a culture of art and dialog evolving from the confluence of both countries in a region defined by its hybridism.



This first presentation of work will take place in Tijuana at La Casa del Túnel: Art Center, in a building under which a tunnel across the border was discovered in 2004. Located in the Colonia Federal district just steps from the US/Mexico Border, La Casa del Túnel shares with the MexiCali Biennial the goals of creating a new model for sustainable cultural development in the cross border region with full participation from all stakeholders.

Sergio Torres-Torres, 2009

Work by Skip Arnold, Juan Bastardo, Anibal Catalan, Pablo Cobian, Jeff Chabot, Michelle Chong, Fernando Corona, Fidel Hernández, Rebeca Hernández, I.C.E., Nicholas Kersulis, Ryan Lamb, Ivan Limas, Albert Lopez, Susana Rodriguez, Ernesto Rosas, Gustavo Siono, Sergio Torres-Torres, Jason Wallace Triefenbach and Fundação Wanna Winnie.  
Curated by Ed Gomez, Luis Hernandez and Amy Pederson.



Albert Lopez, video installation

Working in photography, painting, sculpture, performance and new media, these artists from California and Mexico interrogate the economies of exchange underlying extant constructs of race, nationalism, art and identity in the region, while insisting on a transgressive fluidity for these categories. Preoccupied by violence, both corporeal and political, and possessing provocative wit, this work presents an initial foray into a dialogue that will continue over the course of the next year.

The second exhibition will take place in MexiCali in August 2009, with the last installation to follow in January 2010 at the Ben Maltz Gallery, Otis College of Art and Design.

Please contact Amy Pederson ([amy.pederson@woodbury.edu](mailto:amy.pederson@woodbury.edu)), Ed Gomez ([zemogde@gmail.com](mailto:zemogde@gmail.com)) or Luis G. Hernandez ([lfajardo1@hotmail.com](mailto:lfajardo1@hotmail.com)) for more information.  
[mexicalibiennial.org](http://mexicalibiennial.org), email at, [info@mexicalibiennial.org](mailto:info@mexicalibiennial.org)



left to right  
Anibal Catalan, Jason Wallace Triefenbach,  
and Rebeca Hernández

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