

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center
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P.S.1 MoMA

EXHIBITION PRESS RELEASE
LEANDRO ERLICH: SWIMMING POOL

Now extended through March 2010

(Long Island City, NY — October 10, 2008) P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center presents *Leandro Erlich: Swimming Pool*, an extraordinary and visually confounding installation by the Argentine artist Leandro Erlich. *Leandro Erlich: Swimming Pool* will be on view in P.S.1's unique, double-height Duplex gallery from October 19, 2008 through March 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 divided 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 fashioned 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 (2005). He represented Argentina at the 49th Venice Biennale (2001), where he showed *Swimming Pool*, and was also featured in the Singapore Biennale (2008), the Liverpool Biennial (2008), 7th Havana Biennale (2001), the 7th Istanbul Biennial (2001), the 3rd Shanghai Biennale (2002), the 1st Busan Biennale (2002), and the 26th Bienal de São Paulo (2004). His work will be shown in the upcoming Prospect.1 New Orleans Biennial in 2008. He lives and works in Buenos Aires.

Leandro Erlich: Swimming Pool is organized by P.S.1 Founding Director Alanna Heiss.

The exhibition is made possible by David Teiger, Estrellita B. Brodsky and Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros.

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Background:

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is one of the largest and oldest organizations in the United States solely devoted to contemporary art. Established in 1976 by Alanna Heiss, P.S.1 originated from The Institute for Art and Urban Resources, a not-for-profit organization founded five years prior with the mission of turning abandoned, underutilized buildings in New York City into artist studios and exhibition spaces. P.S.1 became an affiliate of The Museum of Modern Art in 2000.

Support:

Operations and programs of P.S.1 are supported by the P.S.1 Board of Directors; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Helen M. Marshall, Queens Borough President; The Council of the City of New York; and the P.S.1 Annual Fund, Annual Exhibition Fund, Business Circle, and The Student Body. The P.S.1 Annual Fund is supported by Carnegie Corporation of New York, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, David Teiger, Union Beer Distributors, The Cowles Charitable Trust, Dorothy Lichtenstein, Galerie Lelong, E. William Judson, Jane K. Lombard, Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation, Inc., Barbara Gladstone, Mathis Pfohl Foundation, The Herman Liebmman Foundation, Bobby Kopp + Co. Productions, and other donors.

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P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center's institutional archives were established with generous founding support from the Leon Levy Foundation.

Directions:

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Avenue in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. It is easily accessible by bus and subway. Traveling by subway, visitors should take either the E or V to 23 Street-Ely Avenue (note that the V does not run on weekends); the 7 to 45 Road-Courthouse Square; or the G to Court Square or 21 Street-Van Alst. Visitors may also take the Q67 bus to Jackson and 46th Avenues or the B61 to Jackson Avenue.

Hours:

P.S.1 is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday. It is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day.

- artbook@PS1 is open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursday through Sunday.
- LeRosier Café is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday.

Admission:

Admission is a \$5.00 suggested donation; \$2.00 for students and senior citizens; free for MoMA members and MoMA admission ticket holders. The MoMA ticket must be presented at P.S.1 within thirty days of date on ticket and is not valid during Warm Up or other P.S.1 events or benefits.

Web Sites:

www.ps1.org • www.wps1.org • www.moma.org

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