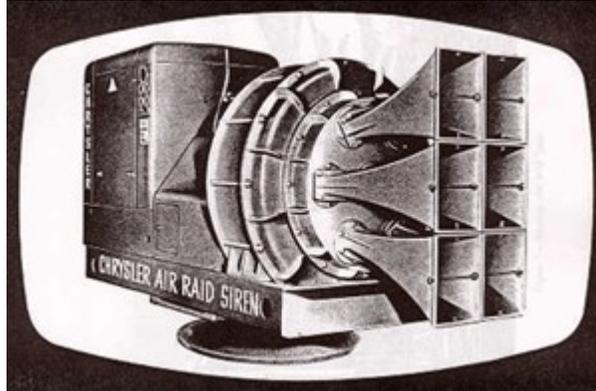


LA><ART

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**Vincent Johnson: Civil Air Defense Project #1**

May 16 through July 7, 2007  
Opening reception May 16 7-9pm

May 16<sup>th</sup> 6pm  
Campari and LA><ART Present Campari Talks  
Sam Durant in Conversation with Vincent Johnson  
RSVP Required: 310.943.9236

Vincent Johnson's site specific sculptural installation for LA><ART titled *Civil Air Defense Project #1* signals his first solo exhibition in Los Angeles, where he lives and works. This project emanates from the artist's photographic lexicon taking the vernacular architecture that is particular to the landscape of Southern California as a site for formal experimentation and social and political investigation. Archival research of the American Cold War Civil Air Defense Program led the artist to focus on devices of the cultures of fear and preparedness that defined the Cold War era. This preoccupation gave rise to the production of an illusory sculpture simulating a Cold War Chrysler Air Raid Siren. Johnson conjures this retired artifact to evoke memories from the 1950s in major metropoli, such as Los Angeles, wherein warning siren tests prepared civilians for enemy attack.

Vincent Johnson's photographic work has been exhibited in venues such as P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center in Queens, New York, SK Stiftung in Cologne, the Santa Monica Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, and the Adamski Gallery of Contemporary Art in Aachen, Germany. Recently, Johnson participated in a collaborative project at the Studio Museum in Harlem entitled *The Philosophy of Time Travel*. He received his MFA from Art Center College of Design in 1997.

**Matt Lucero: Travelogue**

**LA><ART Billboard Project: Greetings from MacArthur Park by Matt Lucero in collaboration with Aya Seko**



May 16 through July 7, 2007  
Opening Reception May 16, 7-9pm

June 30<sup>th</sup> 1pm  
Artist's talk by Matt Lucero

*Travelogue* marks Matt Lucero's first solo exhibition in Los Angeles, where he currently works and lives. Lucero has produced a monumental site-specific sound sculpture for LA><ART, as well as a collaborative billboard project with Aya Seko on La Cienega Boulevard, between Venice and Washington, as part of LA><ART's Public Art Initiatives.

Lucero's *The Ascent of Mount Lowe and Those who Stayed at the Bottom (Frigida Incuriositas)* is made up of an eight-foot abstract sculpture and a digital surround-sound installation. The audio consists of found film scores that have been edited and sutured by the artist. Lucero's interests lie in the rare moments of reflection that occur in popular cinema, which he describes as "cinematic breath." These instances, devoid of dialogue or action, signal moments of reflection and meditation. Through this sculptural and sound environment, Lucero attempts to extend and amplify the points of contemplation, breath, and reflection that have been appropriated from cinematic space. The title of the installation references a form of writing, the travelogue, that the artist employed on a retreat to Joshua Tree. In effect, Lucero's sound composition is based on an ephemeral, abstract piece of writing that animates the physicality of the sculpture. The corporeal yet abstract language of the sculpture in its high gloss polished industrial surface provides a contradictory sensorial and physical space.

Matt Lucero received his MFA from CalArts in 2003. He has exhibited at Harris Lieberman Gallery in New York, Lizabeth Oliveria Gallery in Los Angeles, and Lombard-Freid Projects in New York.

## About LA><ART

Responding to Los Angeles' cultural climate, LA><ART questions given contexts for the exhibition of contemporary art, architecture and design. With a renewed vision for the potential of independent art spaces, LA><ART provides a center for interdisciplinary discussion and interaction and for the production and exhibition of new exploratory work. LA><ART offers a space for provocation, dialogue and confrontation by practices on the ground in LA and abroad. LA><ART is a hub for artists based on flexibility, transition, spontaneity and change. The space responds to an urgency and obligation to provide an accessible exhibition space for contemporary artists, architects and designers.

LA><ART's programs are made possible with the generous support of the Andy Warhol Foundation, James Irvine Foundation, Danielson Foundation, Campari, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Puffin Foundation, Richard Massey and Carolina Bilbao, Joy Simmons, Lisa Schiff, Phil and Julie Kamins, Donanne Kasikci, Andrea Lounibus, Jet, Uber.com, and LA><ART's founding members and patrons.



Forthcoming exhibitions: July 19 – September 1 *Charles Gaines: Greenhouse* and *Florencia Pita: Alice*

**LA><ART is located at 2640 S. La Cienega Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90034 T.310.559.0166  
F.310.559.0166 [office@laxart.org](mailto:office@laxart.org) [www.laxart.org](http://www.laxart.org)**

LA><ART is open Tuesday through Saturday 11am – 6pm.