

LA><ART PRESENTS THE FIRST SOLO LA EXHIBITIONS WITH WILLIAM CORDOVA AND LOS ANGELES-BASED ARTIST SHERIN GUIRGUIS

William Cordova, *untitled (chincanas)*, 2010, courtesy of the artist and LA><ART, Los Angeles; Sherin Guirguis, *Qasr El-Shoaq* (study), 2010, courtesy of the artist and LA><ART, Los Angeles

William Cordova: untitled (chincanas)

April 3-May 8, 2010

Opening reception: April 3, 6-9pm

LA><ART is pleased to present a new project by William Cordova. Cordova is an interdisciplinary artist who engages specific reclaimed materials and minimalist forms to investigate research processes, the archive, history, and the urban landscape. Cordova's project at LA><ART, *untitled (chincanas)*, marks the most recent installment of a broader ongoing project that focuses on both language and landscape. In this project Cordova is invested in the dialectic of public and private spaces and the ways in which urban architectural constructions affect psychological narratives.

In the context of LA><ART's main gallery, Cordova will exhibit *untitled (the echo in nocolas guillen landrian's bolex)*, a suite of 100 drawings. Cordova conceives of these paper and collage works as "ephemeral monuments to a places, a people, and a moment forgotten or overlooked." *This ones 4U (pa' nosotros)* represents a sculptural video installation operating as a post-Third Cinema experiment. This installation conjures tenets that filmmakers such as Fernando Solanas and Octavio Getino originated in 1969. Cordova is interested in the concept of exhibiting film covertly, relative to taking a risk in the realm of viewership. Cordova's makeshift construction for screening the video exposes the front and rear of the apparatus, creating a continuous perspective. Through its massive scale and echoing audio the artist aims to create a foreign scenario for spectatorship.

William Cordova was born in Lima, Peru, in 1971. He received his MFA from Yale University in 2004 and his BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1996. Recently his work was included in such exhibitions as "NeoHooDoo: Art for a Forgotten Faith," The Menil Collection, Houston, TX; "Street Level," The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA; the 2008 Core Artists in Residence Exhibition, Glassell School of Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; the 2008 Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; and solo exhibitions at Three Walls, Chicago, IL (2008); Arndt & Partner, Zürich, Switzerland (2007); and P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, NY (2006). Cordova is currently an Artist-in-Resident at Project Row Houses, Houston, TX. He is based in Miami, New York, and Lima, Peru.

LA><ART PROJECT SPACE***Sherin Guirguis: Qasr El-Shoaq***

LA><ART is also pleased to present a new site-specific sculpture by Los Angeles-based artist Sherin Guirguis. Guirguis' work references various contradictory elements, both formal and social. Having been raised in Cairo and

now living in Los Angeles, Guirguis' project investigates the frictions between the contemporary and the traditional, the reductive and the ornamental. In LA><ART's Project Space, Guirguis' *Qasr El-Shoaq*, inspired in part by a pair of Bedouin earrings, engages both formal and social concerns by juxtaposing the reductive Western language of minimalist aesthetics with that of Eastern Arabic ornamentation. Titled after the second novel in Naguib Mahfouz's Cairo Trilogy, Guirguis' sculpture pairs architectural references of a specific Egyptian locale with the functional logic of one of its components--the *mashrabeya*. These wooden screens used for windows, while operating as a passageway between interior and exterior spaces, also delineate and distinctly separate these two domains. Like the *mashrabeyas*, Guirguis' sculpture bifurcates the space of the gallery, generating a threshold between the public and the private, the flat and the 3-dimensional. Materially bold yet fragilely kinetic, *Qasr El-Shoaq* expands Guirguis' navigation between two distinct worlds by giving shape to culturally divergent and opposing elements; bringing formal and informal dichotomies in contact with viewers and with each other.

Sherin Guirguis was born in Luxor, Egypt in 1974. She received her BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1997 and her MFA from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2001. Her work has been exhibited at Patricia Faure Gallery, Santa Monica; BANK, Los Angeles; Project Flower Shop, Brooklyn and POST, Los Angeles. Selected Group shows include *Quickening*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Tuscan; *The Dreams Stuff is Made Of*, ArtFrankfurt, Germany and Las Vegas Diaspora, curated by Dave Hickey at the Las Vegas Art Museum. Her work has been reviewed in the LA Times, Flash Art, Artforum and Artweek, among other publications. In addition to her own work, Guirguis has also curated several exhibitions featuring emerging artists in California. She currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

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.

L.A.P.D. – LA Public Domain features artistic and curatorial collaborations and interventions in experimental contexts.

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This exhibition is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.



Upcoming: May 22-June 26, 2010: Mike Hernandez (Gallery One) and Colter Jacobsen curated by LA><ART Adjunct Curator Malik Gaines (Gallery Two)

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