

REDCAT

ROY AND EDNA DISNEY/CALARTS THEATER **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gallery at REDCAT presents
Pablo Bronstein
Enlightenment Discourse on the Origins of Architecture



Pablo Bronstein, "Primitive facade variations" (2014), ink and watercolour on paper 6 parts, each part: 115 x 200 cm / 45.2 x 78.7 in approx (unframed). Courtesy of Herald St, London and Franco Noero, Turin.

<http://www.redcat.org/exhibition/pablo-bronstein>

Friday, January 24 to Saturday, March 15, 2014

Opening reception: Friday, January 24, 6–9pm

Daily performances: 3–6pm, or through intermission

Exhibition hours: Tuesday–Sunday 12–6pm

The work of London-based artist Pablo Bronstein (Buenos Aires, 1977) is distinguished by a series of projects and public interventions in which he assumes the roles of art historian, architect and choreographer as he reconstructs historical moments and mimics them in *tableaux vivants*. Camouflaged within the guise of history and imitating architectural forms or urban lifestyles from a certain era, Bronstein reinvents the past with great subtlety and perception.

The newly commissioned project that Pablo Bronstein creates at REDCAT functions as a "staged essay" where the artist articulates, by means of a series of drawings and furniture, the origins of architecture from the naturalistic perspective of the Enlightenment. In a certain way, Bronstein satirizes the insistence with which the architectural culture of the Enlightenment sought to guarantee a "nature" uncontaminated by historical events.

In the gallery, a series of drawings and furniture/buildings appear and together create a traditional 18th-century room. Each unit changes shape and location by means of a set choreography, transforming the suite into an urban plaza reminiscent of the idealized view of a city in traditional Renaissance painting. The intricate setting is activated by a performer who opens, closes and rearranges the objects in the exhibition, and then returns them to their initial state. In their open position, these objects create a complex pattern, imitating the daily protocols of a bourgeois city. In their closed position, they return to the rigid and symmetrical grid of the room, an abstract representation of State power and order. Each piece also functions as a signifier that refers indirectly to the search for the first building or an architectural model of universal validity. By exaggerating their decorative and constructive morphology, Bronstein gives his objects an essential and practical function, creating a "real architecture" that emphasizes the archeological interests of Enlightenment thinkers, rather than focusing on the mythological perspectives that dominated the era.

However, the inherent contradictions that Pablo Bronstein establishes between the drawings and furniture/buildings—the shapes they refer to, their irreducibility to pure theory or mere physicality, functionality or artifice—are also ironic comments about the role of art historians, highlighting the pleasure but also the danger of historical discourse. Pablo Bronstein establishes processes that enable fissures between the past and present, the human and inanimate and, above all, between the practice of history and lived experience. He also questions the common ground between the construction of discourse and the subject of study, as well as our physical presence and the way we look through objects, involuntarily searching for their capacity to reveal a history. As in any historical discourse, Pablo Bronstein creates a temporary, incomplete setting, one that can always change shape, demonstrating to us that there is no single origin, and that the original always seems to be preceded by its copy.

Pablo Bronstein (b. 1977, Buenos Aires) lives and works in London. Solo shows include Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève (2013); Institute of Contemporary Art, London (2011); Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen (2011); Sculpture Court, Tate Britain, London (2010); The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2009); and Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus und Kunstbau, Munich (2007).

Pablo Bronstein has participated in numerous group exhibitions, including *Tate Live: Performance Room* at Tate Modern, London (2012); *MOVE: Choreographing You* at Hayward Gallery, London, Haus der Kunst, Munich, and K20, Dusseldorf (2010–2011); and *The Garden of Forking Paths* at Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich. Pablo Bronstein has participated in Manifesta 8 (2010–2011); Performa 07; The Second Biennial of Visual Arts, New York (2007); and at the Tate Triennale, Tate Britain, London (2006).

His books *Postmodern Architecture in London* (2007), *Ornamental Designs* (2008), and *Gilded Keyholes* (2013) have been published by König Books.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a small publication with an essay from Ellis Woodman (architecture critic and executive editor of BD, London, UK).

Admission to the Gallery is FREE

Funded in part with the generous support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the British Council.



The Standard is the official hotel of REDCAT.

ABOUT REDCAT | THE ROY AND EDNA DISNEY/CALARTS THEATER

REDCAT, CalArts' downtown center for contemporary arts, presents a dynamic and international mix of innovative visual, performing and media arts year round. Located inside the iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall complex in downtown Los Angeles, REDCAT houses a theater, a gallery space and a lounge. Through performances, exhibitions, screenings, and literary events, REDCAT introduces diverse audiences, students and artists to the most influential developments in the arts from around the world, and gives artists in this region the creative support they need to achieve national and international stature. REDCAT continues the tradition of the California Institute of the Arts, its parent organization, by encouraging experimentation, discovery and lively civic discourse.

Gallery at REDCAT focuses on experimentation through new commissions that often mark the first major U.S. presentation by the featured artists. Employing temporary structures and dynamic installations, the exhibition formats are flexible and constantly reformulated to allow for a range of spatial and temporary possibilities. Through its annual series of exhibitions, publications, talks and other public programs, the Gallery highlights concepts and critical discourses that connect art with other fields and disciplines.

For current program and exhibition information call 213-237-2800 or visit redcat.org.

REDCAT is located in downtown Los Angeles inside the Walt Disney Concert Hall complex with a separate entrance at the corner of West 2nd and Hope Streets. REDCAT's street address is 631 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles CA 90012. Parking is available in the Walt Disney Concert Hall parking structure. \$9 event rate or \$5 for vehicles entering after 8:00 pm on weekdays.

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