



For Immediate Release:

Luis Camnitzer

February 2 - May 29, 2011

*Five-decade career overview organized by Daros Latinamerica, Zurich,
is part of El Museo's FOCOS Series*

Press Preview: Tuesday, February 1, 2011, 11:00am
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New York, NY, November 29, 2010 – El Museo del Barrio is proud to announce that **Luis Camnitzer**, a traveling exhibition exploring five decades of work by the conceptual artist and writer Luis Camnitzer organized by Daros Latinamerica, Zurich, will be on view February 2 – May 29, 2011.

Curated by Hans-Michael Herzog, director of Daros Latinamerica, and Katrin Steffen, co-curator, this fascinating retrospective includes approximately 70 pieces dating from 1966 to the present, assembled from the Daros Latinamerica Collection. The exhibition is part of El Museo's FOCOS series, which highlights mature, under-recognized artists.

“We are grateful for the opportunity to present Camnitzer’s compelling work to our New York audiences, and to collaborate with Daros Latinamerica for the first time in this endeavor so closely allied to our own mission,” states Deborah Cullen, Director of Curatorial Programs at El Museo del Barrio. “Luis Camnitzer is an artist who has been critical to the New York art scene since the 1960s when he moved here, and his influence on the broader Latin American and conceptual field is profound.”

A pioneer of conceptual art, Camnitzer takes a firm socio-political stance. At the heart of his work lies the idea that artists are not first creators of paintings or sculptures, but rather primarily ethical beings sifting right from wrong and just from unjust. He works in a variety of media—including installation, printmaking, drawing, and photography.

“Camnitzer has developed an essentially autonomous oeuvre, unmistakably distinguished from that of his U.S. colleagues by its exquisite feel for context and contingency, acerbic wit, ludic qualities, ironically metaphorical polyvalence, as well as its solid socio-political commitment,” notes Herzog. “The Daros Latinamerica Collection is proud to enjoy the largest collection of Camnitzer’s work, and is thrilled to share with El Museo’s audience this profound insight into his artistic life.”

A fully illustrated catalogue in English and Spanish published by Hatje Cantz Verlag accompanies the exhibition. In addition to a conversation between Luis Camnitzer and Hans-Michael Herzog, the publication includes essays by Sabeth Buchmann, Antonio Eligio

Fernández (Tonel), Michael Glasmeier, Maren Welsch, and Camnitzer, along with a preface by Cullen.

About Luis Camnitzer

Luis Camnitzer was born in Germany in 1937, grew up in Montevideo, Uruguay and has lived and worked in New York since 1964. He received Guggenheim Fellowships in 1961 and 1982 and, has made his mark internationally not only as an artist but as a critic, educator and art theorist.

Formally allied with the American Conceptualists of the 1960s and 1970s, over the past 50 years Camnitzer has developed an essentially autonomous *oeuvre*. Through his art Camnitzer often plays with the role of audience as silent witness and accomplice, within the arts as well as politics, often drawing on his youth in Montevideo under a repressive government that the international community allowed to persist.

Camnitzer studied at the Escuela de Bellas Artes, Universidad de Uruguay, and the Academy of Munich. Today he is a frequent contributor to the magazine *ArtNexus*. He is the author of *New Art of Cuba* (1994, 2003) and *Conceptualism in Latin American Art: Didactics of Liberation* (2007). His visual works have appeared in numerous exhibitions, and are represented in the permanent collections of various international institutions including Tate Modern, MoMA, and El Museo del Barrio.

Retrospectives of his work have been presented at Lehman College Art Gallery in the Bronx (1991) and Kustshalle Kiel in Germany (2003). His work has appeared in biennials and group shows, including *Information* (1970), The Museum of Modern Art, New York; *Biennial of Havana* (1984, 1986, and 1991); *Venice Biennale* (1988); *Whitney Biennial* (2000); *Documenta 11* (2002); *Beyond Geometry* (2005), Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and *The New York Graphics Workshop* (2008), Blanton Museum, University of Texas.

About El Museo del Barrio

El Museo del Barrio, New York's leading Latino cultural institution, welcomes visitors of all backgrounds to discover the artistic landscape of Latino, Caribbean, and Latin American cultures. Their richness is represented in El Museo's wide-ranging collections and exhibitions, complemented by film, literary, visual and performing arts series, cultural celebrations, and educational programs.

El Museo del Barrio was founded 40 years ago by artist and educator Raphael Montañez Ortiz and by a coalition of Puerto Rican parents, educators, artists and activists who noted that mainstream museums largely ignored Latino artists. Since its inception, El Museo has been committed to celebrating and promoting Latino culture, thus becoming a cornerstone of El Barrio, and a valuable resource for New York City. El Museo's varied permanent collection of over 6,500 objects spanning more than 800 years of Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino art includes pre-Columbian Taíno artifacts, traditional arts, twentieth-century drawings, paintings, sculptures and installations, as well as prints, photography, documentary films and video. For more information on El Museo del Barrio, please visit www.elmuseo.org.

Press Materials

Current and past press releases about El Museo del Barrio's exhibitions and programs are accessible at: <http://www.elmuseo.org/en/content/press/press-release>. Hi-res images are available at: <http://www.elmuseo.org/pressfiles>. User ID: media / Password: elm101709.

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