

ART IN GENERAL

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Alejandro Almanza Pereda, *Untitled (Ropero)*, 2006, wardrobe, fluorescent light tubes, fish tanks, decorative bricks, plant and bed sheets, dimensions variable.

For Immediate Release

Alejandro Almanza Pereda

January 27-March 31, 2007

Opening Reception Saturday, January 27, 2007, 6-8 p.m.

New York, NY (December 11, 2007) As part of its New Commissions Program, Art in General is pleased to announce a new sculpture by Alejandro Almanza Pereda.

Alejandro was born in 1977 in Mexico City, where, he notes, "If you weren't looking where you were going, you could just fall down a hole." His frequently dangerous-looking installations and sculptures intentionally appear incomplete; his work acknowledges environments inhabited by the working class and pays homage to the delicate balancing act that constitutes life. Like Duchamp and the many iconoclasts who have expanded on the famous Dadaist's esthetic, Alejandro employs household furniture, appliances, fixtures and fluorescent lights in his intentionally un-pretty yet delicately constructed work, which challenges the notion of safety while calling attention unavoidable fact of impermanence.

Moving to the US dramatically influenced the direction of Alejandro's work, as he became fascinated by public safety issues and how they had been addressed in a much more laidback manner in his native country than they were in El Paso, where he

moved in 2001 to study art. He started making precarious sculptures with a distinctly Mexican attitude, using simple building materials including wood, duct tape, plastic, caution tape, buckets of water and exposed electrical wires, among other things. He has constructed sculptures that defy the inherent properties of the materials he uses, including their weight, scale and fragility. For instance, he has suspended heavy bricks over delicate light bulbs, set a lamp on a slanted night stand and suspended a television in the air with its own electric cable. By creating seemingly unstable structural environments that seem disasters on the verge of happening, Alejandro playfully calls attention to gravity, materiality and security.

Alejandro Almanza Pereda received his BFA from the University of Texas at El Paso, where he majored in sculpture and minored in graphic design. His solo exhibitions include "Stand Clear" at Magnan Emerich in New York City; "Mix Series" at the Dallas Center for Contemporary Art; "Verdevete" at Glass Gallery in El Paso and "Impermeable" at Union Gallery in El Paso. Among other group shows, Alejandro's work has been included in "Queens International 2006: Everything All at Once"; SCOPE New York; "El Equilibrio y Sus Derivados" in Mexico City and Performagia 3. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including Best of Show Arlene McKinnon Award at UTEP in 2005, 2003 and 2002; the Best Sculpture Award at UTEP in 2003 and Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award from the international Sculpture Center in 2003. Alejandro has also participated in a residency at the Skowhegan School of Painting and received recognition from the National Fund for the Arts and Culture (the FONCA in Mexico).

About the New Commissions Program

Art in General's New Commissions program is made possible by The Institute of Museum and Library Services, an independent Federal grant-making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of learners by helping libraries and museums serve their communities; the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; and the Booth Ferris Foundation. Additional support has been provided by the National Endowment for the Arts; Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation, Peter Norton Family Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro, Jerome Foundation and George Mills. Support for Alejandro Almanza Pereda has also been provided by the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Foundation.



About Art in General

Founded in 1981 in lower Manhattan, Art in General is a nonprofit organization that assists artists with the production and presentation of new work. It changes in response to the needs of artists with the mission of informing and engaging the public about their work. In 25 years, Art in General has emerged as one of New York City's leading nonprofits devoted to supporting and stimulating the creation of contemporary art, providing an environment in which artists can exhibit unconventional work and exchange ideas with their peers. Art in General has exhibited the work of nearly 5,000 artists working across a wide range of media.

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