

Laboratorio 060

Curated by Pablo Helguera

March 13 – April 19, 2008

Opening Reception Thursday, March 13, 6:00 – 8:00pm

“The experimental collaborations, performances, videos and installations of Laboratorio 060 are indicative of the temperament and creative state of mind that characterizes the new generation of Mexican art.”

– Pablo Helguera

Traffic, curatorial action, 2004
Video still

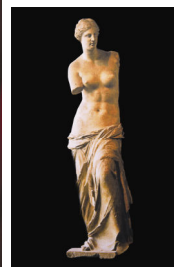


The Mexico City-based collective, Laboratorio 060, blurs the line between the processes of curating and art making through elements of art history, humor and contemporary social commentary. Since coming together in 2003 as part of a seminar on curatorial practice in Mexico City, Laboratorio 060 has brought their varied projects to traditionally peripheral audiences through inclusion, not just presentation, “creating new communities within the relational sphere of art.” Underlining the participatory and sometimes

confrontational nature of Laboratorio 060’s work, the members, Lourdes Morales, Javier Toscano and Daniela Wolf, use terms such as “curatorial actions” and “interventions” to describe many of their projects.

In *Traffic* (top, left), a curatorial action, Laboratorio 060 took artists’ photographs out of the traditional exhibition space and combined them with phrases from political discourses about progress and the future. They worked with numerous street vendors and brought together 30 people to march down Mexico City’s main freeway during rush hour and bring this truly “travelling” exhibition to an unsuspecting audience. *Looking for Venus* (bottom, right), a curatorial action and exhibition, investigated contemporary definitions of beauty and their link (if any) to art and involved inviting female passers-by into a small street vending stall to assume poses similar to famous historical depictions of the Roman Goddess of beauty, Venus. Through their activities, the collective seeks “to become a cultural mediator that displays imagination as an inhabitable space.”

On view at CUE Art Foundation, Laboratorio 060’s first exhibition in New York, are various forms of documentation of these and other projects of the collective, ranging from flyers to slides to videos to posters. The other projects included are *Frontera. A Sketch for the creation of a future society* and *Video Killed the Radio Star*, both of which involve live performances during the opening reception of the exhibition. Stressing their interest in “borders and their active exchange,” Laboratorio 060’s work forces the viewer to question the traditionally unassailable without providing any concrete answers, leading one into a quagmire of social critique and self-reflection.



Venus of Milos (winner), 2005
From the project, *Looking for Venus*
35mm slide

(More, over)

For additional information, please contact Ryan White, Programs Assistant, CUE Art Foundation, 212-206-3583, or email ryan.white@cueartfoundation.org

Accompanying Public Program:

Laboratorio 060 will perform *Ancient Chinese Secret* (original score by Jeff Morris) and an oral recount of *Frontera. A Sketch for the creation of a future society* will be given.

Thursday, March 13, 7:30pm sharp

CUE Art Foundation, 511 West 25th Street, Admission FREE.

The members of Laboratorio 060, having no musical background, will perform *Ancient Chinese Secret*, an original musical score by Jeff Morris and winning submission for their project, *Radio Killed the Video Star*. The score involves the systematic solving of Sudoku puzzles to dictate the musical arrangement. *Ancient Chinese Secret* will be aired live on the Neighborhood Public Radio station. Also performed during the opening will be an oral recount of their project, *Frontera. A Sketch for the creation of a future society* performed by someone who did not partake or witness the original project.

ARTIST'S BIO:

Laboratorio 060 is an interdisciplinary arts collective based in Mexico City, founded in 2003. Their line of work implies an experimental and critical approach to the public sphere and the articulation of a curatorial practice as a medium for artistic performance. Some of the most relevant projects realized by the collective are:

In 2007 the collective won the First Prize of the *Best Art Practices* award from the The Italian Culture Department of the Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano for the *Frontera* project. They have produced several projects and presentations developing the idea of an artistic production as a strategy for further critical developments. Articles about Laboratorio 060 have been published widely in Mexican Media (including TV and radio programs), *Art Press* (United States), *ART* (Germany), *Exibart* (Italy), *Sarai* (India) and *Exit* (Spain).

ABOUT CUE:

CUE Art Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit forum for contemporary art and cultural exchange that provides opportunities and resources for under-recognized artists. We value the astonishing diversity of creativity that artists provide and the importance of their activity in the social context of the city.

CUE provides artists, students, scholars and art professionals resources at many stages of their careers and creative lives. Our programs include exhibitions, studio residencies, publications, professional development seminars, educational outreach, symposia, readings, concerts and performances. Since 2002, we have operated from our 4,500 square foot storefront venue in the heart of New York's Chelsea Arts District.

CUE Art Foundation's operations and programs are made possible with the generous support of foundations, corporations, government agencies, individuals and its membership. Programming assistance is provided by: Accademia Charitable Foundation, Ltd., Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation, Compass Group International, The Greenwall Foundation, Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation, Inc., Joan Mitchell Foundation, Peter Norton Family Foundation, The Viking Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro, Joe and Beth Massoud, The Foundation for Contemporary Arts, and with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency. Advertising support provided by The Brooklyn Rail.

