

Santiago Sierra

Dedicated to the Workers and the Unemployed

52-54 Bell Street

1 February – 3 March 2012

Lisson Gallery presents a major retrospective of video work and new work by controversial artist Santiago Sierra. The exhibition includes a timetabled cycle of performance based films shown alongside documents, photographs and a curated selection of Sierra's shorter and less linear video works.

New works include the recently completed *No Global Tour* - a film documenting the manufacture and transportation through various world cities of a monumental sculpture in the form of the word "No". Conceived to be understood in as many contexts as possible; and unchanging in form and immediate meaning, the "No" gradually assumes a complex semantic load during a journey full of eventualities, accidents and unexpected events. A monumental "No" sculpture situated in the sculpture yard accompanies the film's pared down minimalism presenting a powerful portrait of a humanity that is able to assert itself everywhere and at all times by forcefully saying: "No". *Death Counter*, a piece comprised of an LED display counting annual number of human deaths worldwide since the beginning of the year will be mounted outside the gallery.

Addressing situations of exploitation and marginalisation Sierra's provocative works often spark controversy; especially those in which underprivileged individuals are paid for performing degrading or uncomfortable actions. Drug addicted prostitutes have received the price of a shot of heroin in exchange for having their backs tattooed / *60cm Line Tattooed On 4 People (2000)* - and homeless women paid the price of a night in a hostel in exchange for standing for long periods with their faces to the wall of a museum - *Group Of People Facing A Wall (2002)*.

Sierra forces us to question the commodification of human life, exposing and challenging the structures of power that operate in our society. The essence of these works is often in the tension generated and sustained between the event or its documentation and the spectator. Sierra has created a body of work that rescues and renews the expressive power of minimalism and conceptualism, with a political charge that encourages reflection on the classical problems of Western art while denouncing our current situation.

Notes to Editors

The exhibition will comprise a large cinema screen in each of the ground floor gallery spaces. *No Global Tour* will be shown twice daily alongside photographic works from the project. Another screen will feature two 8 hour programmes on alternating days. Throughout the first floor of the gallery monitors with headphones will show Sierra's less linear works on loop.

The Sculpture Yard at 29 Bell Street, will display the 'No' sculpture from *No Global Tour*.

About the artist

Santiago Sierra (b.1966). Solo exhibitions include Centro-Museo de Art Contemporaneo Basco, Victoria, (2011); Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane (2010); Ikon Gallery, Birmingham (2003) and Spanish Pavillion, 50th Venice Biennale (2003). Group exhibitions include The Welcome Trust, London (2011); Performa, New York (2009); Tate Modern, London (2008); Kunsthalle Wein, Vienna (2007).

Exhibition Facts

Opening Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 11am-5pm

Location: 52-54 Bell Street, London, NW1 5DA

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