

# LEANDRO ERLICH: SEEING AND BELIEVING

NOVEMBER 18, 2017 [SAT] - APRIL 1, 2018 [SUN] MORI ART MUSEUM [53F, ROPPONGI HILLS MORI TOWER]

## THE LARGEST SOLO EXHIBITION OF LEANDRO ERLICH'S TO DATE!

The Mori Art Museum is pleased to present “Leandro Erlich: Seeing and Believing” from Saturday, November 18, 2017 to Sunday, April 1, 2018. An Argentinian contemporary artist of global repute, Leandro Erlich is perhaps best known in Japan as the creator of *The Swimming Pool*, a permanent installation at the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa.

From massive installations to videos, Erlich’s works employ optical illusions and sound effects to shake up our notions of common sense. Though what the audience sees may at first glance seem familiar, on closer inspection it proves to be a surprising, unsettling deviation from the usual, in the form of, for example, a boat floating in the absence of water, or people sticking to the wall in various poses. Viewers begin to doubt whether what they see is actually reality, and notice just how much unconscious habit influences the way they look at things.

Covering the entire 24 years of Erlich’s career to date, “Leandro Erlich: Seeing and Believing” will be the largest-ever exhibition devoted to the work of this fascinating artist. Of the approximately 40 works on display produced from 1995 to 2017, 80 percent will be making their Japanese debut. Through

Erlich’s works, we will realize by ridding of our inertia, habit, preconceived notions, and received wisdom that the visible is not all there is to reality, and experience for ourselves, with our newly unclouded vision, the advent of a new kind of world.



*Building*  
2004  
Digital print on linoleum, light, iron, wood, mirror  
800 x 600 x 1,200 cm  
Installation view: Nuit Blanche, Paris, 2004  
\* Referential image

### Message from the Artist

It is both a great challenge and great honor to make a richer presentation of my work as a solo showcase at the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo. Tokyo and the Japanese audience have always been a source of inspiration for me.

I hope the experience of this show would help people notice and realize a fact: how our habits and/or actions taken subconsciously, in fact, shape our behaviors, and how stereotyped images endure beyond perception.

I believe it would provide a catalyst for each one of them to take a fresh look at what is actually happening around us and wonder, “Is there more than one reality?”

### PRESS RELEASE

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## ◆ EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

### [ 1 ] Binge on Works Making Their Japanese Debut! Comprehensive Coverage of Erlich's Practice from Early Days to the Latest

Showcasing the 24 years to date of Erlich's practice from first works produced in 1995 to the newly-commissioned, "Leandro Erlich: Seeing and Believing" will be the largest-ever exhibition devoted entirely to the career of this Argentinian artist. Around 80 percent of the 40 or so works presented will be shown in Japan for the first time, offering great opportunities for new and intriguing encounters with the artist's oeuvre.

### [ 2 ] An Exhibition that Gives a Feel How Much Fun Contemporary Art Can Be

Full of mystery and surprise, and sure to arouse curiosity, Leandro Erlich's works are only complete when the viewer personally participates in and experiences them. Moreover, Erlich's use of everyday, ubiquitous motifs such as buildings, a classroom, underground trains and elevators makes his works highly relatable and eminently accessible to people of all ages, even those previously unfamiliar with contemporary art.

### [ 3 ] Showcases a Huge, Architectural Installation with Incredible Photo Opps!

The exhibition will also showcase the "Building" series that is one of Erlich's most popular projects - it is a large experiential installation in which visitors lie on a building facade placed on the floor, striking their preferred poses, and thanks to the mirror effect, create scenes in which they seem to be crouched on walls and window sills in acrobatic, gravity-defying postures. Visitors can also take photos of themselves in these bizarre positions.

### [ 4 ] The World Will Never Seem the Same Again!- Works That Offer New Ways of Looking

Most people find even the slightest cognitive "shift" in a familiar landscape immediately disconcerting. By presenting spaces of a bizarre and mysterious nature amid the reality we unquestioningly take for granted, Erlich's works prompt us to rethink the very meaning of "reality." Having noticed, through this exhibition, the degree to which habit and preconceived notions impact on our understanding, no doubt we will find the world a very different place afterward.

### [ 5 ] Social Messages and Criticism Infused in the Works

Leandro Erlich's works have the ability to delight people from all walks of life, but behind them are some serious social messages. *The Democracy of the Symbol* takes as its theme the Obelisk monument that towers over central Buenos Aires, but also became a talking point for its attempt to open up to the general public a structure that normally serves as a symbol of authority. Meanwhile, in *The Classroom* a new work made for this show, the viewer is reflected in an abandoned classroom like a spirit of the dead, hinting at issues now confronting Japan such as its falling birth rate, and rural depopulation, and prompting the visitor to contemplate what the country might look like in future.

*The Democracy of the Symbol*  
2015  
Photograph  
145 x 100 cm (each)



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## ◆ FEATURED KEY WORKS

### *Port of Reflections* JAPAN PREMIERE

Watch the rowboats bobbing on water and you will imagine a jetty has appeared in the gallery space. In fact, however, there is no water, and the images that appear to be reflected in water are part of a sculpture made from the same material as the boat above.



*Port of Reflections* 2014  
Fiber glass, metal frame, movement system, wood and acrylic panel  
Dimensions variable  
Installation view: "Hanjin Shipping The Box Project 2014," National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea, Seoul, 2014  
Courtesy: National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea; Art Front Gallery; Galleria Continua

### *The Classroom* NEWLY COMMISSIONED

A new work to be produced for this show, *The Classroom* is set in a classroom belonging to a school closed against a backdrop falling birthrates and rural depopulation. Enter one of two rooms separated by a glass partition and see yourself reflected faintly there as if present in the other desolate classroom like a spirit of the dead.



*The Psychoanalyst's Office* 2005  
Two rooms of identical size with sofa, bookcase, desk, chair, carpet, glass, light  
Dimensions variable  
Installation view: Fundación PROA, Buenos Aires, 2013  
Photo: Clara Cullen \* Referential image

### *Building* NEW VERSION

If you've ever wanted to defy gravity and hang blithely off a wall, this wonderful immersive installation is for you. Lie on the building facade on the floor, and watch yourself reflected in the mirror.



*Building* 2004  
Digital print on linoleum, light, iron, wood, mirror  
800 x 600 x 1,200 cm  
Installation view: 104-Paris, 2011  
\* Referential image

### *Changing Rooms* JAPAN PREMIERE

A maze-like experiential installation. Entering the changing rooms you will find full-length dress mirrors in front and to the left and right. Yet you are not reflected in them: instead the changing rooms extend into infinity. Wandering through it becomes difficult to tell if one is outside the mirrors or inside, and even to distinguish between self and others.



*Changing Rooms* 2008  
Panel, frame, mirror, stool, curtain, light  
Dimensions variable  
Installation view: Iguatemi Shopping Mall, São Paulo, 2016  
Courtesy: Iguatemi Shopping Mall Photo: Luciana Prezia

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## LEANDRO ERLICH

Born 1973 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Currently based in Buenos Aires and Montevideo, Uruguay. He has participated in a number of international exhibitions such as Whitney Biennial 2000 (New York), The 26th São Paulo Biennial (2004) and Liverpool Biennial 2008 (U.K.), as well as "Paris-Delhi-Bombay..." held at Centre Pompidou (Paris, 2011). He's had solo exhibitions at MACRO - Museo de Arte Contemporaneo in Rome (2006), MoMA PSI (New York, 2008), Espacio Fundación Telefónica (Madrid, 2017), Neuberger Museum of Art (New York, 2017) among others. In Japan, he participated in The Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale (Niigata, 2006/2012) as well as Setouchi Triennale 2010 (Kagawa, 2010), and in 2014 held his first solo exhibition in Japan at 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa.



Photo: Alejandro Guyot



### On *The Swimming Pool*

Leandro Erlich is familiar to the Japanese public through such installations as *The Swimming Pool*, on permanent display in the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa. In *The Swimming Pool*, through water separating above and below ground, those above ground can watch people moving around underwater, while those below ground gaze upward from under water.

\* The maquette Prototype and photographs of this project will be on view at this exhibition.

*The Swimming Pool* 2004  
Concrete, glass, water 280 x 402 x 697 cm  
Collection: 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa  
Photo: Kioku Keizo  
Photo courtesy: 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa  
\* Referential image

## ◆ GENERAL INFORMATION

**Exhibition Title:** "Leandro Erlich: Seeing and Believing"

**Organizer:** Mori Art Museum

**In Association with:** Embassy of the Argentine Republic

**Curated by:** Tsubaki Reiko (Associate Curator, Mori Art Museum)

**Exhibition Period:** November 18, 2017 [Sat] - April 1, 2018 [Sun]

**Venues:** Mori Art Museum, 53F, Roppongi Hills Mori Tower, 6-10-1 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo

**Open Hours:** 10:00-22:00 | Tue: 10:00-17:00 | \* Admission 30 minutes before closing. | \* Open everyday.

**Admission:** Adult: ¥1,800 / University/highschool student: ¥1,200 / Child (age 4 up to junior highschool student): ¥600 / Senior (ages 65 and over): ¥1,500 | \* All prices include tax. | \* Ticket also valid for Tokyo City View observation deck (excludes Sky Deck). | \* Additional entrance fee to the Sky Deck is required.

**General Inquiries:** +81-(0)3-5777-8600 (Hello Dial)

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<https://mam-media.com/en/press-img>

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