

## Luis Camnitzer



Bricks (Installation) (1974/2012)  
Digital print on vinyl

### **Biography** [view entire CV PDF 153 K](#)

Luis Camnitzer (b.1937) is a German-born Uruguayan artist and writer who moved to New York in 1964. He was at the vanguard of 1960s Conceptualism, working primarily in printmaking, sculpture, and installations. Camnitzer's artwork explores subjects such as social injustice, repression, and institutional critique. His humorous, biting, and often politically charged use of language as art medium has distinguished his practice for over four decades.

In 1964 he co-founded The New York Graphic Workshop, along with fellow artists, Argentine Liliana Porter and Venezuelan Guillermo Castillo (1941–1999). For six years until the end of the workshop in 1970, they examined the conceptual meaning behind printmaking, and sought to test and expand the definition of the medium. During the late 1960s and early 1970s, Camnitzer developed a body of work that explored language as primary medium, shifting from printing text on paper or walls, such as his *Dictionary* etchings and the room-size installation, *Living Room* (both 1969). As his interest in language unfolded, so did his aim to identify socio-political problems through his art. Camnitzer responded in great

### **Gallery Exhibitions**

*Passage* 2015

SP-Arte 2015

Luis Camnitzer  
*The Mediocrity of Beauty*, 2015

Art Dubai 2014

Art Basel Miami Beach 2013

Kabinett  
Art Basel Miami Beach  
Luis Camnitzer, 2013

Broken Spaces: Cut, Mark, and Gesture 2013

Two Parallel Lines Dubai, United Arab Emirates,  
2013

Art Dubai 2013

Art Basel Miami Beach 2012

part to the growing wave of Latin American military regimes taking root in the late '60s, but his work also points to the dynamic political landscape of his adopted country, the United States.

During the 1970s, Camnitzer created a key body of work that blended both language and humor—producing a series of object-boxes that placed ordinary items within wood-framed glass boxes with text printed on brass plaques. In all cases, the printed sentences are also the works' titles. In many ways, these boxes anticipate one of Camnitzer's most important works, the *Uruguayan Torture Series* (1983–84). This photo-etching series epitomizes Camnitzer's ability to question the social and political roles of an individual in society, while also examining a dimension of human psychology by pairing images and text to create new meaning.

Though Camnitzer never left New York, his practice remains intrinsically connected to his homeland and the whole of Latin America. This consistent dedication cements his place as a key figure in shaping debates around ideas of post-Colonialism, Conceptualism, and pedagogy.

Camnitzer's work has been shown at important institutions since the 1960s, including one-person exhibitions at El Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos, Santiago, Chile (2013); Kemper Art Museum, St. Louis, MO (2011); El Museo del Barrio, New York (1995); Museo Carrillo Gil, Mexico City (1993); and List Visual Arts Center at M.I.T., Cambridge, MA (1991). Retrospectives of his work have been presented at Lehman College Art Gallery in the Bronx, New York (1991); Kunsthalle Kiel, Germany (2003); Daros Museum in Zurich, Switzerland, El Museo del Barrio, New York; and Museo de Arte Moderno de Medellín, Bogota, Colombia (2010–13). The Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía is planning a large-scale retrospective of the artist scheduled to open in 2018. His work has appeared in numerous group exhibitions, including *Under the Same Sun: Art from Latin America Today* at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY (2014); the seminal *Information* show at Museum of Modern Art, New York (1970); among others. He has been featured in several international biennials, including the Bienal de la Habana, Cuba (1984, 1986, 1991, 2009); Pavilion of Uruguay, 43 Biennale di Venezia, Italy (1988); Whitney Biennial (2000); and Documenta 11 (2002).

Camnitzer's work is in the permanent collections of Museum of Modern Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; Tate, London; Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Daros Latinamerica Collection, Zurich; among others. He was the recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowships on two occasions, 1961 and 1982. A highly regarded critic and curator, Camnitzer is a frequent contributor to contemporary art magazines. He has authored the publications *New Art of Cuba* (University of Texas Press: 1994, 2003), *Conceptualism in Latin American Art: Didactics of Liberation* (University of Texas Press: 2007), and *Didáctica de la liberación: Arte conceptualista latinoamericano* (Fundación Gilberto Álzate Avedaño, IDARTES: 2012). He taught at the State University of New York, College at Old Westbury since 1969, and he continues to serve as professor emeritus.

## Articles / Reviews

Camnitzer rinoceronte 2015 PDF 2.6 MB  
Camnitzer e-flux journal February 2015 PDF 530 K  
Camnitzer Artshock November 21, 2014 PDF 437 K  
Camnitzer La Mula October 11, 2014 PDF 594 K  
Camnitzer Gallerist June 18, 2014 PDF 716 K  
Camnitzer New York Times June 12, 2014 PDF 561 K  
Camnitzer Arts Hebdo Medias February 26, 2014 PDF 304 K  
Camnitzer Art Basel Miami Beach 2013 Brochure PDF 194 K  
Camnitzer Santiago Times August 4, 2013 PDF 430 K

Luis Camnitzer 2012

Art Dubai  
Luis Camnitzer  
Hassan Sharif, 2012

Art Basel Miami Beach 2011

Art Basel Miami Beach  
Luis Camnitzer  
Paul Ramirez Jonas, 2010

Landscape as an Attitude 2010

Luis Camnitzer Memorial, 2010

Pinta 2009 Luis Camnitzer, Paul Ramírez Jonas,  
Regina Silveira, 2009

Propose: Works on Paper from the 1970s 2009

Art Basel Miami Beach  
Luis Camnitzer, 2008

Luis Camnitzer 2008

## Other Exhibitions

Luis Camnitzer Museum of Modern Art, 2015

Luis Camnitzer Casa Daros, 2014

Luis Camnitzer SITE Santa Fe, 2014

Luis Camnitzer Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de  
Buenos Aires, 2014

Luis Camnitzer Guggenheim Museum, 2014

Luis Camnitzer Museum of Modern and  
Contemporary Art Rovereto, 2014

Luis Camnitzer Fondation Cartier, 2013

Luis Camnitzer Cortex Athletico, 2014

Luis Camnitzer Tate Liverpool, 2013

Luis Camnitzer Museo de Arte de la Universidad  
Nacional de Colombia, 2012

Luis Camnitzer Columbia University, 2013

Luis Camnitzer The Project Wall, 2013

Luis Camnitzer MAC Quinta Normal and El Museo  
de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos, 2013

Luis Camnitzer Galería Diablo Rosso, 2013

Luis Camnitzer Marfa Book Company, 2012

Luis Camnitzer Museo de Arte de Ponce, 2012

Luis Camnitzer Aanant & Zoo, 2011

Luis Camnitzer Parra & Romero, 2011

Luis Camnitzer Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery,  
University of British Columbia, 2011

Luis Camnitzer Parsons The New School for Design,  
2011

Luis Camnitzer Museo de Arte de Zapopan, 2011

Luis Camnitzer El Museo del Barrio, 2011

Luis Camnitzer Kemper Art Museum, 2011

Luis Camnitzer Museum Wiesbaden, 2011

Luis Camnitzer Museo de la Memoria, 2010

Luis Camnitzer Daros Museum Zürich, 2010

## Series / Projects

Luis Camnitzer Assignment Series, 2011

Luis Camnitzer Amanaplanacanapanama, 1995

Camnitzer Fellbach Triennale June 22, 2013 PDF 1.1 MB  
Camnitzer Columbia University January 23, 2013 PDF 156 K  
Camnitzer Blouin Art Info January 14, 2013 PDF 146 K  
Camnitzer El País Digital 2013 PDF 83 K  
Camnitzer Fillip Fall 2012 PDF 240 K  
Camnitzer Mongolia 360° 2nd Land Art Biennial August 2012 PDF 396 K  
Camnitzer Art Nexus April 3, 2012 PDF 123 K  
Camnitzer Miami Herald February 19, 2012 PDF 83 K  
Camnitzer Mousse February 2012 PDF 1.2 MB  
Camnitzer Art Agenda January 5, 2012 PDF 141 K  
Camnitzer Mongolia 360 Biennial 2012 PDF 228 K  
Camnitzer Canadian Art October 20, 2011 PDF 13 MB  
Camnitzer e-flux journal June 14, 2011 PDF 502 K  
Camnitzer Huffington Post May 20, 2011 PDF 144 K  
Camnitzer Bomb Spring 2011 PDF 1.2 MB  
Camnitzer Artforum May 2011 PDF 3.8 MB  
Camnitzer Arte Al Dia International May/June/July 2011 PDF 2.5 MB  
Camnitzer New Yorker April 25, 2011 PDF 86 K  
Camnitzer Art Review April 2011 PDF 6.1 MB  
Camnitzer Art in America March 11, 2011 PDF 216 K  
Camnitzer New York Times February 16, 2011 PDF 109 K  
Camnitzer Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León June 26, 2010 PDF 350 K  
Camnitzer ArtReview March 31, 2010 PDF 296 K  
Camnitzer Neue Zürcher Zeitung March 11, 2010 PDF 211 K  
Camnitzer Art on Paper September/October 2008 PDF 3 MB  
Camnitzer Artforum Summer 2008 PDF 1.7 MB  
Camnitzer Art in America June/July 2008 PDF 1.3 MB  
Camnitzer New York Times April 11, 2008 PDF 79 K  
Camnitzer Contemporary 21 2008 PDF 1.3 MB  
Camnitzer New York Times April 7, 2007 PDF 88 K  
Camnitzer Fundação Iberê Camargo October 20, 2006 PDF 84 K  
Camnitzer Frieze April 2004 PDF 80 K  
Camnitzer Artforum International February 2004 PDF 174 K  
Camnitzer New York Times March 18, 2001 PDF 66 K  
Camnitzer Artforum International April 1997 PDF 163 K  
Camnitzer Art in America February 1996 PDF 47 K  
Camnitzer Artforum International January 1996 PDF 44 K  
Camnitzer Artforum December 1994 PDF 48 K  
Camnitzer New York Times August 20, 1993 PDF 66 K  
Camnitzer New York Times March 3, 1991 PDF 65 K

Luis Camnitzer Envelope, 1967  
Luis Camnitzer A Museum is a School, 2009-  
Present  
Luis Camnitzer Last Words, 2008  
Luis Camnitzer Works, 2000-2010  
Luis Camnitzer Uruguayan Torture Series, 1983-  
1984  
Luis Camnitzer Works, 1970s  
Luis Camnitzer Object Boxes, 1970s  
Luis Camnitzer Graphics, 1968 - 1970