Alejandro Tamayo

Portfolio of recent works

Past works: www.thepopshop.org
Alejandro Tamayo (b. 1973, Colombia, lives and works in Canada)

Tamayo employs sculpture, drawing and installation to reflect about contemporary modes of art production and systems of meaning. Drawing inspiration from everyday found arrangements encountered on the streets of Hamilton and Toronto, the cities in which he has lived for the past seven years, and from a variety of sources that include artist’s writings, philosophy and music, Tamayo invites the public to encounter situations that are seemingly neither finished nor unfinished, and where meanings are open to evolve and change over time.

Recent exhibitions and participations include Division of Labour at the Workers Arts and Herigate Centre, Unexpected Arrivals at Bunker 2 Contemporary Art Container, and The distance from the Sun at The Gales gallery from York University.
The distance from the Sun (2018)

Found objects and materials, printed photos.
Variable dimensions.

The Gales Gallery and storage room, York University.
May 7-12, 2018.

PhD final exhibition.

This work was created by moving objects from the storage room into the gallery space and by finding new arrangements and relationships between them. During the time of the exhibition, both the gallery space and the storage room were open to the public.

At the end of show all the objects and materials were returned and placed in the same locations they had before the show using as reference a series of photographs that were taken prior to the exhibition and which were available to the public in a printed format.

More images:
http://www.thepopshop.org/events/thedistancefromthesun/index.html
Show review:
https://excal.on.ca/listen-to-the-still-language/
ABOUT US: STORY OF WAHC

The Workers Arts and Heritage was conceived in the late 1980’s by a dynamic group of labour historians, artists, and union and community activists who gathered together to discuss the need for a place where workers' history could be celebrated. In 1996, after intense work by a volunteer board of directors, the (Ontario) Workers Arts and Heritage Centre purchased the historic Custom House on Stuart Street in the north end of Hamilton. The building is ideally situated in the heart of a working-class neighbourhood.

The Workers Arts and Heritage Centre aims to preserve, honour and promote the culture and history of all working people. But we also hope to learn from the past towards challenging the future – for future generations. The contributions of working people – not only in Canadian history but worldwide – are showcased in art, exhibits, and performances. Their labour and advocacy has made this country a fair and vibrant place to live and work, and we acknowledge these struggles. Without them, Canadians would not be living in a country ranked among the best in the world.

The Custom House, built in 1860 to handle trade flowing through Hamilton Harbour and fanning out into Upper Canada, found itself in a period of transition after the Customs Department left in 1887. Over the years many different companies have used it. The Custom
Division of Labour
January 30 – April 20, 2019

Group exhibition curated by Suzanne Carte.
With Basil AlZeri, ro Barragán, Ghost of a Dream and Rodrigo HGz.

Workers Arts & Heritage Centre, Hamilton

My contribution to this group show consisted in the selection of a series of objects from the storage room and their relocation into the exhibition spaces. This selection included a collection of 9 doors that had been removed from the museum over the years and a series of empty frames left from previous exhibitions. The materiality of these objects was paired with a collection of books related to a future without work, and with the textual intervention of the museum's printed mandate, where some letters were cut out and rearranged to form the sentence “Free time”.

Exhibition catalogue (pdf)

More images:
http://www.thepopshop.org/events/divisionof_labour/index.html

Photo credits: Kat Williams.
Corridor outside the AGYU vitrines during the time of the exhibition.
A quantifiable translation of the agitation of enclosed air allowing three empty spaces to be visually compared (2015)

September 23 - December 6, 2015

Electronic thermometers, air
Each vitrine: 43" (L) x 19" (W) x 89" (H)

Three electronic thermometers were located inside the AGYU's vitrines during the duration of the exhibition. The purpose of this gesture was to activate the empty space of the vitrines by calling attention to the fluctuation of air in their interior.

During the exhibition daily annotations of the temperature in each space were carried out at random times by staff and by the public. A publication was created at the end of the exhibition showing each of the everyday annotations.

More information:
http://agyu.art/project/alejandro-tamayo-2/

Photo credits: Michael Maranda
**Untitled (2015)**

Painter's table and tape rolls

The sculpture consists of a found painter's table to which two tape rolls are attached on both of its sides. The rolls descend at an imperceptible speed until they touch the ground.

This work was part of the exhibition *The World is happening* that took place from Oct. 21 - 31, 2015 at the Special Projects Gallery from York University, Toronto.
**Untitled (2015)**

Gallery's drill and extension cord  
Variable dimensions

This site-specific sculpture was performed during the exhibition *The world is happening* at the Special Projects gallery from York University on Oct. 28 at 2:15 PM, 2015.
Due to the lack of exhibition spaces in Toronto, artists and curators have been turning to domestic spaces as alternatives. My friend Ashley Culver invited a group of artists to produce a solo exhibition in her apartment for the duration of one month each.

My response consisted in a series of installations. In one of them I asked the artist to collect for me all the rubber bands that she had. I selected some areas in the apartment and developed different arrangements. While some were easily spotted others passed almost unnoticed.

More information and images from Ashley Culver’s *Sea Foam* series: https://www.instagram.com/seafoamhome/
**Alignment (2012)**

*Chair, custom-made wooden blocks*

Chair facing in the direction of the galactic centre at the moment of the exhibition opening.

If left in the same position, the chair would be aligned again every year.

MFA final show. School of Fine and Visual Arts, National University of Colombia, Bogotá.
**The visible and the invisible (2012)**

*Laser pointers, wooden bases and supports.  
Variable dimensions.*

An invisible point is created by the intersection of two lines of laser lights. This point exists but its presence in space is not visible unless it is intercepted by the public.

MFA final show. School of Fine and Visual Arts, National University of Colombia, Bogotá.