

**The Renaissance Society** at The University of Chicago

# Gabriel Sierra

## *Monday Impressions.*

May 3 – June 28, 2015

The Renaissance Society presents a new, site-specific installation by Gabriel Sierra, the Bogotá-based artist's first solo show in the United States.

Sierra is intrigued by the language of man-made objects and the dimensions of the spaces in which we live, work, and think. His practice employs a variety of techniques – from sculpture and spatial interventions to performance and texts – to examine how the human body functions in relation to its environment. Originally trained in architecture and design, Sierra's work draws on the history of Latin American Modernism.

His project at the Renaissance Society consists of a group of constructions to stand in or to walk over, which relate abstractly to the idea of inhabiting different moments of space and time. The artist considers the title to be the most important component of the exhibition: it changes every hour to frame the specific moment in which the visitor experiences the work. This shifting title experiments with how environments, and the exhibition in particular, are perceived across time. Each of the eight titles introduces a different logic to the space of the gallery. (The title on the entrance wall will be change hourly keeping the format regularly used by the institution.)

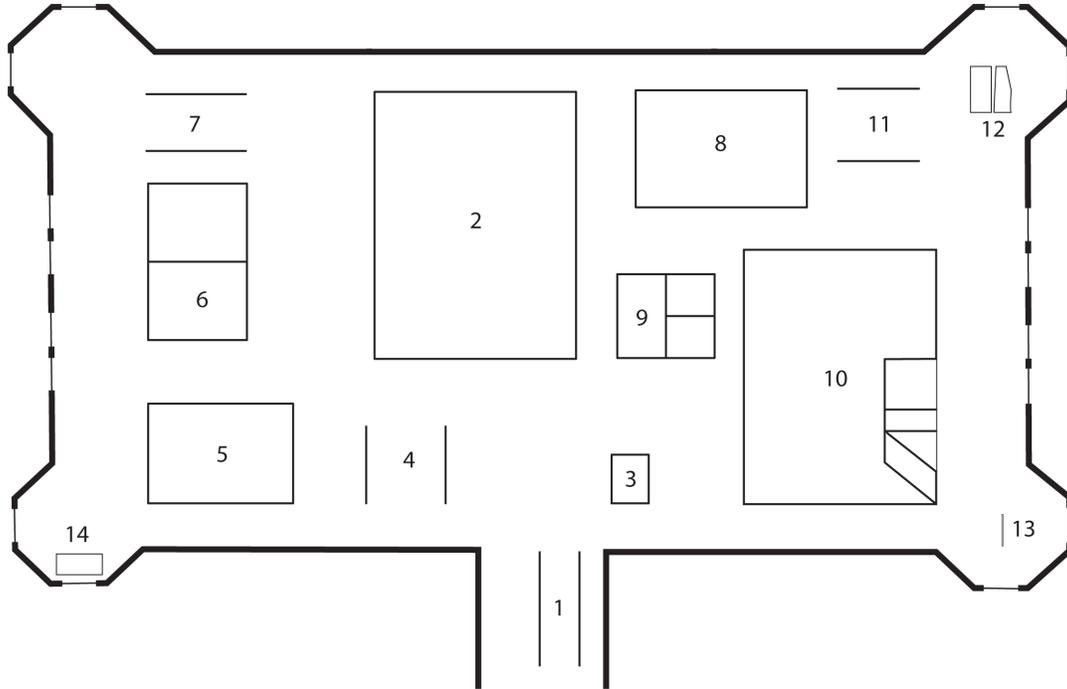
The installation consists of 14 areas or structures, each with a suggestion for engaging with it. These instructions function in a similar way to the exhibition title by influencing the behavior of the visitor, whose actions are required to activate the works. The combination of spaces and times creates an infinite number of phenomenological perspectives on the exhibition.

The constructions and their related instructions refer to the transitional realm of the antechamber. They are not destinations in themselves, but passages of experience leading from one to another, momentary neutral zones.

An exhibition catalogue featuring essays by Douglas Fogle and Irene V. Small and documentation of the installation is forthcoming.

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Gabriel Sierra (born 1975, San Juan Nepomuceno, Colombia) lives and works in Bogotá. Recent solo exhibitions include ggaabbriieellssiieerrrraaat Kurimanzutto, Mexico City, Mexico (2013) and Thus Far at Peephole, Milan, Italy (2013). His work has been included in numerous group exhibitions, including Do Objeto para o Mundo, COLEÇÃO INHOTIM, Itaú Cultural, São Paulo (2015), Guggenheim UBS MAP Global Art Initiative: Latin America, Guggenheim Museum, New York (2014), Impulse, Reason, Sense, Conflict at Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation, Miami (2014) and The 2013 Carnegie International, Pittsburgh (2013).



1. Walk between the lines as slowly as possible while smiling softly. Stop smiling while outside the lines.

2. Area for people wearing old shoes.

3. Four people lift a rectangle everyday at 2:00pm.

4. Area to drink a bottle of water and feel that you are drinking the cosmos. Abruptly leave the area when done.

5. 10:00am-12:00pm: Area for two people to stare into each other's eyes without blinking for 10 minutes.

12:00pm-5:00pm: Area for a person over 30 pretending to be 21 for 30 minutes.

6. Area for a 15-minute indoor nap in a 15th century fashion and area for a 20-minute outdoor nap in a 20th century fashion.

7. 10:00am-1:00pm: Area for five Americans

1:00pm-5:00pm: Area for five non-Americans

8. Stand 6", 8", and 12" off the ground.

9. Spend 12 minutes, 8 minutes, and 6 minutes in each platform area while pretending to be in the past, present, and future.

10. Walk for 10 minutes thinking of the outdoors while you are indoors.

11. 10:00am-12:00pm: Area for a person looking at his or her watch every five minutes for 20 minutes.

12:00pm-5:00pm Area for 21-year-olds to stand for 21 minutes with their hands in their pockets.

12. Pretend to be a fake stone when standing on the rectangular stone. Pretend to be a real stone when standing on the hexagonal stone.

13. Area for considering Mondays, when the gallery is closed.

14. Stone for children and small adults to stand up and look through the window into the opposite window.

Please join us for a free gallery walk-through:

- **Tuesday, May 12, 6pm with Zoë Ryan**, John H. Bryan Chair and Curator of Architecture and Design at The Art Institute of Chicago
- **Sunday, June 7, 2pm with Solveig Øvstebø**, the Renaissance Society's Executive Director and Chief Curator