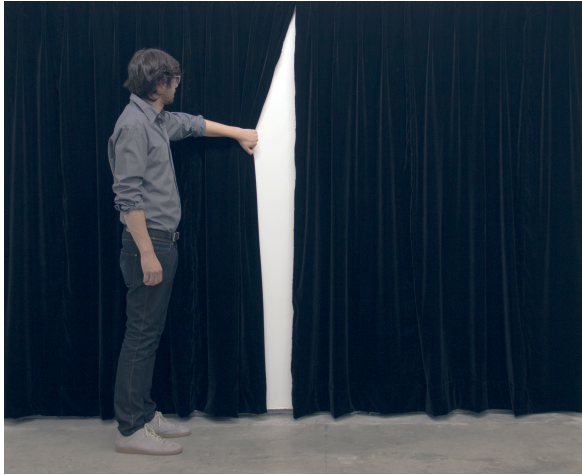


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Contact: Nancy Lee, Manager, Public Relations, 310-443-7016, [nlee@hammer.ucla.edu](mailto:nlee@hammer.ucla.edu)

**HAMMER PROJECTS: MARIO GARCIA TORRES**

**On view at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, September 13, 2014 – January 4, 2015**



Los Angeles— In 1968 the Directors Guild of America created the pseudonym Alan Smithee for directors wishing to disown films in which their creative vision had been compromised. In the intervening years, the name has been associated with one of the film and television industry’s most extensive and indistinguishable filmographies. Though less common today as it once was, Smithee is widely regarded as a prolific and legendary auteur, whose collection of flops made by countless filmmakers tells a story of disavowal, shame, the ambivalences of anonymity, and the cultivation of public personae. Mexico City-

based artist **Mario Garcia Torres’s** one-act monologue, written as an imagined tell-all, casts the fictitious director as a central protagonist in a new single-channel video. Performed by an actor whose delivery embodies the internal struggles of a faceless character and filmed using a visual vocabulary inherited from professional keynote lectures, motivational speeches, and the now ubiquitous TED talk, Garcia Torres’s video speculates on Smithee’s fraught biography and explores the complex relationship between artistic work and its audiences.

*Hammer Projects: Mario Garcia Torres* is organized by Hammer Curator Aram Moshayedi.

**Biography**

Mario Garcia Torres (b. 1975, Monclova, Mexico) received an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts in 2005 and currently lives in Mexico City. Recent solo exhibitions of his work have taken place at Project Arts Centre, Dublin (2013); Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid (2010); Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona (2009); Kunsthalle Zürich (2008); and Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2007). He has also participated in such international exhibitions as the Berlin Biennale (2014); the Mercosul Biennial, Porto Alegre, Brazil (2013); Documenta 13, Kassel, Germany (2012); the São Paulo Bienal (2010); and the Venice Biennale (2007). Garcia Torres’s exhibition at the Hammer Museum is the first solo presentation of his work in Los Angeles.

Hammer Projects is a series of exhibitions focusing primarily on the work of emerging artists.

Hammer Projects is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, Susan Bay Nimoy and Leonard Nimoy, Hope Warschaw and John Law, and Maurice Marciano.

Additional support is provided by Good Works Foundation and Laura Donnelley, the Decade Fund, and the David Teiger Curatorial Travel Fund.

Special thanks to KCET for its support of *Hammer Projects: Mario Garcia Torres*.

### **ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM**

The Hammer Museum—a public arts unit of the University of California, Los Angeles—is dedicated to exploring the diversity of artistic expression through the ages. Its collections, exhibitions, and programs span the classic to the cutting-edge in art, architecture, and design, recognizing that artists play a crucial role in all aspects of culture and society.

The museum houses the Armand Hammer Collection of old master, impressionist, and postimpressionist paintings and the Armand Hammer Daumier and Contemporaries Collection. The museum also houses the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts—comprising more than 45,000 prints, drawings, photographs, and artists' books from the Renaissance to the present—and oversees the management of the Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden on the UCLA campus. The Hammer's newest collection, the Hammer Contemporary Collection, is highlighted by works by artists such as Lari Pittman, Kara Walker, Ed Ruscha, Barbara Kruger, Mark Bradford, Richard Hawkins, and Llyn Foulkes, among many others.

The Hammer presents major single-artist and thematic exhibitions of historical and contemporary art. It also presents approximately ten Hammer Projects exhibitions each year, providing international and local artists with a laboratory-like environment to create new work or to present existing work in a new context.

As a cultural center, the Hammer offers a diverse array of free public programs throughout the year, including lectures, readings, symposia, film screenings, and music performances. These widely acclaimed public programs are presented in the Hammer's Billy Wilder Theater, which is also the home of the UCLA Film & Television Archive's renowned cinemathèque.

### **HAMMER MUSEUM INFORMATION**

Visit [www.hammer.ucla.edu](http://www.hammer.ucla.edu) or call **310-443-7000** for current exhibition and program information.

### **ADMISSION TO ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

**Hours:** Tuesday–Friday 11am–8pm; Saturday & Sunday 11am–5pm. Closed Mondays, July 4, Thanksgiving, December 24, 25, 31, and January 1.

**Location/Parking:** The Hammer is located at 10899 Wilshire Boulevard in Westwood Village, three blocks east of the 405 Freeway's Wilshire exit. Parking is available under the Museum. Rate is \$3 for three hours with Museum validation. Bicycles park free and the Hammer is easily accessible via [public transportation](#).

**Tours:** For group tour reservations and information, call 310-443-7041.