

The core of **ISAAC TORRES** (Mexico City, 1981) work is the urbanization process in Mexico City after the 1910 Revolution and especially after the second half of the 20th Century. This artist takes the city as the platform from which the fall of the modernizing project that boomed from the 30's to the 50's can be observed. Urban aesthetics and architectural blossoming were signs of a buoyant nation during this period of State institutionalization and industrial development. However, at the beginning of the second half of the century, the project's centralization lead to a progressive dismantling of agricultural production, which had as consequence an unstoppable migration spree towards the country's capital. This favored the chaotic and euphemistically called "organic" city's growth.

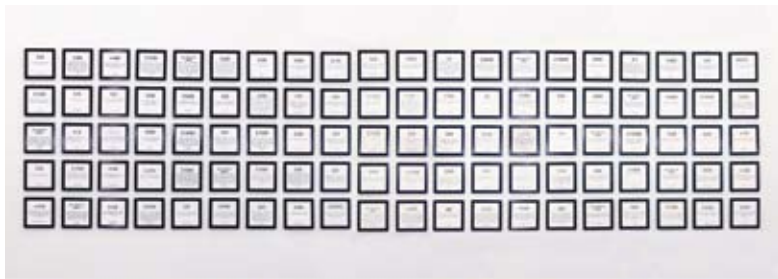
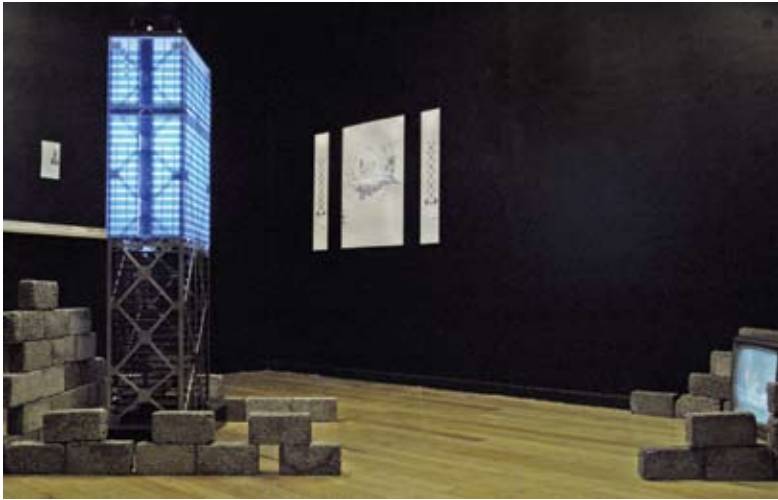
In this context, Torres builds allegories from signs gathered from the operation of economies in relation with global economy and its sequels. The improvisation of measures that substitute what should be public policies is a phenomenon that the artist perceives and synthesizes in his installations: To follow the saga of events after the explosion of gas pipelines in 1984 and 1985's earthquake is an example of that.

Another element that Torres integrates in his production is the iconography derived from the processes of modernization and urbanization that generations assimilate in the shape of an inherited imaginary that settles and propagates in the identity of the inhabitants of the city.

## **Project: THE LAND'S SURPLUS VALUES**

This is a cartographic and documentary project that stems from the premise that Mexico City is a cluster of patches that has adopted a random and contingent shape. Housing conflicts have marked this city where groups of people sharing a common history and identity have taken into themselves the adjudication of living spaces through complicated and sometimes violent negotiations with the authorities.

This artist will research case studies through the gathering of anecdotes and registering the acquisition and occupation stories behind specific constructions and their residents, in specific points of the city. His purpose is to cover the entire urban territory. A process of mapping and diagramming of these events will be made afterwards, following the formation of different settlements, their transformations and in particular their densification, as well as the impact and changes caused in the subjects-residents.



*1984/Squander and Explosion, 2008-2009*  
Model, light box, monitor, bricks, documents, silk prints  
Installation view

*100 Acts, 2006*  
Series of 100 C-prints  
6.7 x 6.7in each

*Democracy, 2006*  
Silk print on t-shirts  
Documentation of action