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media release



Gideon Mendel, *Chinta and Samundri Davi, Salempur village near Muzaffarpur, Bihar, India, August 2007*. Courtesy the artist

## Triennial Window Installations: *Drowning World* and *The Company of Colors*

On view from  
May 17, 2013  
through  
September 22, 2013

The International Center of Photography presents *Drowning World*, a large-scale installation of Gideon Mendel's ongoing global photography and video project about flooding, and artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer's interactive installation *The Company of Colors* in conjunction with its Triennial exhibition *A Different Kind of Order*. Each will be on view in ICP's 43rd Street windows from May 17 through September 22.

Since 2007, Mendel has traveled to the UK, India, Haiti, Pakistan, Australia, Thailand, and Nigeria to track flooding; one of the most destructive and visible signs of climate change. He discovered that in poor countries, floodwaters take a long time to recede, help is not often on the way, and a majority of people don't have the time or resources to clean up and rebuild. Instead, they must carry on with their lives, making dinner, selling produce, or grilling takeaway meats with thigh-deep, brackish water standing in their homes, stores, and temples of worship for weeks or months. The photographs are frontal portraits of single figures or small groups facing the camera, standing in boundless water and wearing expressions that telegraph a range of emotions, from stoicism to desolation.

"The heart of the project is the portraits of victims at their homes within the landscape of their own personal calamity," said Mendel. "My intention is to depict them as individuals, not as nameless statistics. Coming from disparate parts of the world, their faces show us their linked vulnerability despite the vast differences in their lives and circumstances."

Triennial artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer's interactive installation *The Company of Colors* – located in the windows facing 44th Street – features a dozen displays showing real-time camera views of the public constructed out of a variety of color palettes from computer and video-game history. The installation emphasizes the limited range of color rendering possible with computers, including contemporary ones, and the way this limitation shapes styles of representation.

(more)

Gideon Mendel is widely regarded as one of the world's leading contemporary photographers. Born in Johannesburg in 1959, he studied psychology and African history at the University of Cape Town. Following his studies he became a freelance photographer and was one of the young generation of "struggle photographers" documenting change and conflict in South Africa in the lead-up to Nelson Mandela's release from prison. In 1990 he moved to London, from where he has focused on global social issues. He first began photographing the topic of AIDS in Africa in 1993, and in the past sixteen years his ground-breaking work on this issue has been widely recognized. He has won six World Press Photo Awards, first prize in the American Pictures of the Year competition, a POY Canon Photo Essayist Award, the Eugene Smith Award for Humanistic Photography and the Amnesty International Media Award for Photojournalism. His first monograph, *A Broken Landscape: HIV & AIDS in Africa*, was published in 2001. Since 2007 he has been working on a major project addressing climate change, entitled 'Drowning World' which involves travelling to a variety of flood ravaged locations around the world. It was exhibited for the first time in the East Wing Gallery at Somerset House in London in May 2012.

Electronic artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer was born in Mexico City in 1967. In 1989 he received a B.Sc. in Physical Chemistry from Concordia University in Montréal, Canada. He develops interactive installations that are at the intersection of architecture and performance art. His main interest is in creating platforms for public participation, by perverting technologies such as robotics, computerized surveillance or telematic networks. Inspired by phantasmagoria, carnival and animatronics, his light and shadow works are "antimonuments for alien agency." His large-scale interactive installations have been commissioned for events all over the world and has been the subject of solo exhibitions at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Fundación Telefónica in Buenos Aires and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney, and was the first artist to officially represent Mexico at the Venice Biennale with a solo exhibition at Palazzo Soranzo Van Axel in 2007. He is the recipient of many distinguished awards including two BAFTA British Academy Awards for Interactive Art in London, a Golden Nica at the Prix Ars Electronica in Austria, "Artist of the year" Rave Award from Wired Magazine, a Rockefeller fellowship, the Trophée des Lumières in Lyon and an International Bauhaus Award in Dessau.

### **About ICP**

The International Center of Photography (ICP) is the world's leading institution dedicated to the practice and understanding of photography and the reproduced image in all its forms. Through our exhibitions, educational programs, and community outreach, we offer an open forum for dialogue about the role images play in our culture. Since our founding, we have presented more than 500 exhibitions and offered thousands of classes, providing instruction at every level. ICP is a center where photographers and artists, students and scholars can create and interpret the world of the image within our comprehensive educational facilities and archive. Visit [www.icp.org](http://www.icp.org) for more information.

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