

Press News

Immediate Attention

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The Laundromat Project

Hector Canonge, Create Change Public Artist in Residence, launches

The Inwood Laundromat Language Institute (TILLI)

At Magic Touch Laundromat in Inwood, Northern Manhattan.

August 2nd to September 1st, 2011

New York, NY, July 26, 2011 – Artist **Hector Canonge**, recipient of the 2011 Create Change Public Artist in Residence at The Laundromat Project, launches his project ***The Inwood Laundromat Language Institute (TILLI)*** to take place from August 2nd to September 1st, 2011 at **Magic Touch Laundromat** located in Inwood (Thayer Street, between Nagle and Sherman Avenues), Northern Manhattan.

The Inwood Laundromat Language Institute (TILLI) is a public art project where the space of the neighborhood laundromat, Magic Touch, will be used as a school for learning English. In addition to teaching English to Spanish speaking immigrants living in Inwood, Northern Manhattan, the art project will serve as a platform for collecting stories about the experience of learning a new language, and will introduce participants fundamental skills to function in American society.

Classes at TILLI are free and open to the public on a first come, first served basis. Two sessions, one in the morning (9:30 to 10:30 AM) and another in the evening (8:30 to 9:30 PM) will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from August 2nd to September 1st, 2011. The Laundromat's costumers and local residents will be encouraged to apply through colorful fliers posted in and around the neighborhood. The project will culminate on Tuesday, September 6, 2011, 7 – 9 PM, with a public reading by participants, and the unveiling of an interactive multimedia kiosk created by the artists to document the process of his Laundromat Project.

Mike Mok, owner of *Magic Touch Laundromat*, an immigrant himself, declared that “is very enthusiastic about the project and to support the artist in his work.” Canonge commented that he “looks forward to see how people transform themselves and become more informed, more educated, and thus more in control of their lives as they learn a new language.” He added that “after finishing with the classes, the interactive kiosk will serve as a record of the project, and will also promote literacy and encourage new immigrants to learn English and be fully integrated in society.”

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Hector Canonge lives and works in New York City where he studied comparative literature, film and Integrated Media Arts. His work incorporates the use of various media, commercial technologies, physical environments, cinematic, and performative narratives. Canonge has been a resident artist in *LMCC Swing Space Program* at Governor’s Island, and he will be launching his three-month initiative, “Escuela Videográfica Alternativa (Alternative School for Videomaking)” for Tania Bruguera’s long term project, *Immigrant Movement International* in the Fall 2011. Canonge is the recipient of NoMAA’s 2011 Grant Award and of Manhattan Community Art Fund for his project "Hairtalk." His work has been featured by the Queens Museum of Art, Bronx Museum, Jersey City Museum, Exit Art, NY Studio Gallery, Flux Factory, Gallery Aferro, Topaz Arts, Y Gallery, Art for Change, and other art spaces in the city and abroad. His work has been reviewed by the The New York Times, ART FORUM, New York Daily News, Manhattan Times, Hispanic Magazine, El Diario, Timeout NY, and by online publications such as NYRemezcla, Turbulence, and ART CARDS Review among others. More info: www.hectorcanonge.net

ABOUT THE LAUNDROMAT PROJECT

Founded in 1999 and incorporated in 2005, **The Laundromat Project** is a non-profit organization committed to the wellbeing of communities of color living on low incomes. Understanding that creativity is a central component of healthy human beings, vibrant neighborhoods, and thriving economies- we organize art programs in laundromats throughout New York City. By bringing art to where our neighbors already are (everyone has to do their laundry) through our two core programs: Create Change and Works in Progress, we aim to raise the quality of life for people whose incomes do not guarantee broad access to mainstream arts and cultural facilities. For more information please visit www.laundromatproject.org

ABOUT CREATE CHANGE

Create Change was created to connect communities and artists in meaningful ways. There are two ways for artists to participate: the first is as a Create Change Professional Development Fellow, and the second is as a Create Change Public Artist in Residence. This annual 6-month public artist residency program commissions five artists of color to mount public art projects in their local laundry and invites up to 15 additional artists to participate in a professional development series tailored to making socially-engaged artwork. Since 2006, we have worked in 20 laundromats across New York City to produce 11 public art projects that have ranged from collecting and documenting oral histories to teaching techniques in urban gardening.

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