

Gallery Promotes International Dialogue

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The News Staff Reporter

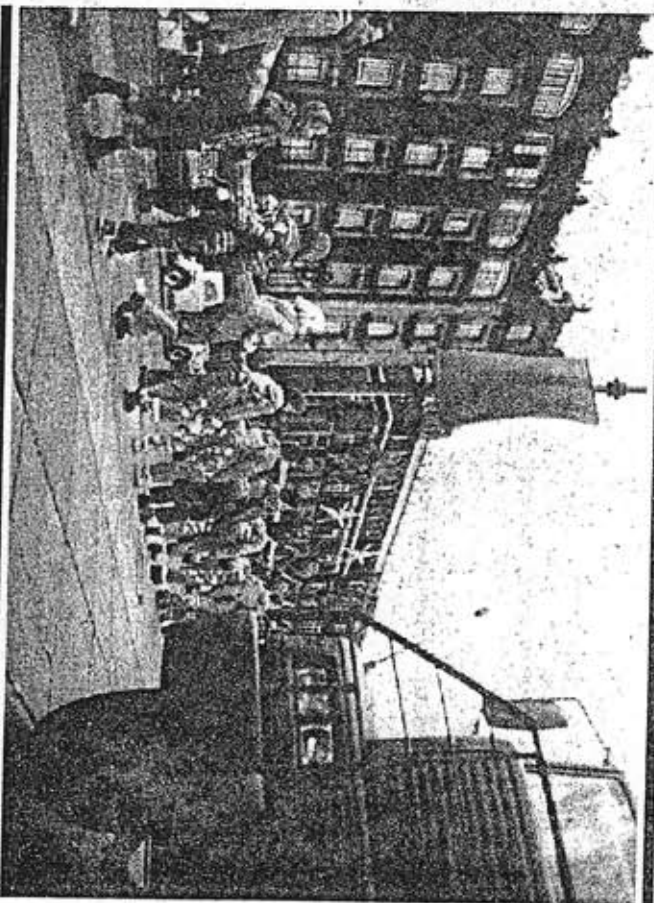
A recent opening in downtown Mexico City, four large feet stuck out from the open end of a triangular green tent. Inside, two large men lay on their bellies, watching videos. One monitor showed a live video of the street below — kids rough-housing, horns blowing, passersby. On the second was a video shot several days before, as Greek artist Jenny Marketou performed "TRANSLLOCAL: Camp in my Tent" in the Zocalo. With their chins propped up on their hands, and wearing their coats against the gallery's unheated chill, the men stayed put in the tent.

Marketou's "Translocal" is one of several pieces currently on exhibit at ART&IDEA, a new non-profit art space in the city's historic center. The group show "En Route

to M-E-X," curated by New Yorker Jade Dellinger, takes nomadism as its point of departure, and draws its inspiration from sources as diverse as Israeli Bedouins and American trailer-park homes.

In addition to the traveling tent project, On Route to M-E-X presents photos of Dutch artist Joep van Lieshout's utilitarian, functional mobil home/art structures, a wall text by Austrian Rainer Ganahl, England's Lucy Orta's "Collective Wear," performance video, and a photo by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan. The artists "are people who live in trains and planes and hotels and their work reflects that," says curator Dellinger. On some level, each is dealing with the fact that while "society and communication is becoming more and more global, geographic boundaries, borders and limitations are the same."

ART&IDEA is the brain child of Austrian Robert Punkenhofner. Getting off the ground in New York in 1993, the project is



Lucy Orta's performance "Collective Wear" in the Zocalo.

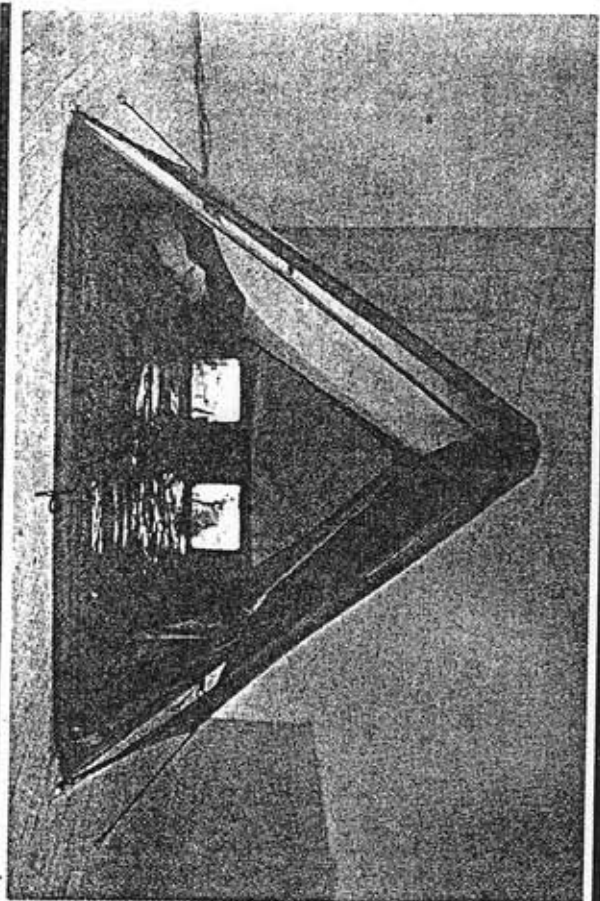
ART&IDEA PHOTOS

participate by design and its objective is to promote dialogue between artists in Europe and the Americas. After a series of installations and exhibits in a variety of spaces in New York, the project had a stint in Mexico. Last year, ART&IDEA arrived in Mexico City in the form of an installation in Punkenhofner's house. This year, Punkenhofner, whose background is in art administration, joined up with D.F. residents Oliver Gierlich and Huberto Probst to open the gallery. Probst had worked for several years in the Centro de Arte Contemporaneo, and while Gierlich was a relative newcomer in the professional sense, he had been an "interested art viewer" for some time. The three wanted to open a non-profit space for all types of contemporary art with an international bent — and to date the space has presented video self-portraits ("Video Paz"), paintings

Rocardo Ricardo Rios). Artists have heralded from Cuba, Japan, Mexico, Norway, the United States, and Venezuela, among other countries.

On the second floor of a beautiful old *vecindad*, above a patio cafe, the pristine, white-floored gallery faces onto Calle Isabel La Católica. Although the four-room space needed essentially to be rebuilt, Punkenhofner and his colleagues were happy to find it. They chose the city's historic center because it was economically feasible and, as Gierlich describes it, "the new image of the center fits well with the work we are exhibiting, it's a better match than if we were in one of the more established 'art areas.' The historic center is the emerging place of the city, it is an alternative space."

En Route to M-E-X through Dec. 20 at ART&IDEA, Weds. - Fri. 6-9 p.m., Isabel la



Jenny Marketou's "TRANSLLOCAL: Camp in my Tent" is currently on exhibit at ART&IDEA