
Finding aid prepared by Jennifer Osorio.
Descriptive Summary

Title: David Lamelas papers
Date (inclusive): 1964-1997
Number: 2005.M.12
Creator/Collector: Lamelas, David, 1946-
Physical Description: 4.5 linear feet (5 boxes)
Repository:
The Getty Research Institute
Special Collections
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100
Los Angeles, California, 90049-1688
(310) 440-7390

Abstract: The personal and professional papers of Argentinean sculptor and filmmaker David Lamelas provide an overview of Lamelas's artistic practices and the development of his work from sculpture to architecture, film, and conceptual installations. Drawings, sketches, notes, plans, photographs, correspondence, sketchbooks, and other papers produced or collected by Lamelas document selected work from his early period in Buenos Aires, through his projects in Europe and North America and his latest work in the 1990s.

Request Materials: Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the catalog record for this collection. Click here for the access policy.

Language: Collection material is in English and Spanish.

Biographical/Historical Note
Argentinian artist David Lamelas is one of the pioneers of Conceptual Art. The son of Spanish immigrants, Lamelas was born in Buenos Aires in 1946 (or 1944?). While in his teens, he studied art at the Academia Nacional de Bellas Artes, with an early focus on sculpture; he began exhibiting his work in Buenos Aires around this time. At the age of 21, he represented Argentina at the 1967 Bienal Internacional de Sao Paulo, with a work of architectural intervention,Dos Espacios Modificados (Two Modified Spaces). That same year, Lamelas created his important installation, Situación de tiempo (Time situation), in Buenos Aires. He represented Argentina at the XX Venice Biennale with the installation piece "Office of Information about the Vietnam War at Three Levels: The Visual Image Text, and Audio."

In 1968 Lamelas left Argentina for London, where he studied sculpture at St. Martins School of Art. During his time at St. Martins he developed an interest in film. Throughout the 1960s and early 1970s Lamelas continued to work and exhibit in Europe. He was a pioneer in the radical repositioning of sculpture at this time, using new materials and modes of production. Lamelas moved to Los Angeles in the mid-1970s and currently makes his home in Berlin. He has continued to make films and videos, including works such as "Film Script," "To Pour Milk Into a Glass," and "The Dictator." Among his better known non-film works are "The Other Side/El Otro Lado," an installation project that was part of InSITEx7 binational exhibition of art in public places, and "Publication," a book as art exhibition.

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Preferred Citation
http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa2005m12

Acquisition Information
Acquired in 2005.

Processing History
Jennifer Osorio processed and arranged the archive in March 2006, under the supervision of Jocelyn Gibbs.

Scope and Content of Collection
The papers of David Lamelas primarily comprise preparatory notes, sketches and drawings for installation and film works from the period after he left Argentina in 1964 to 1997, when he was living in Los Angeles. The archive also contains a number of photographs and negatives (including some personal images), manuscripts of film scripts, correspondence, and assorted ephemera such as gallery invitations and publicity postcards. The archive includes several small journals that

contain sketches and notes, and writings on a variety of topics. The sketches, drawings and notes give particular insight into the working processes involved in the creation of highly conceptual art in a variety of mediums. The collection provides a portrait of his working processes and the development of his work from sculpture to architecture, film, and conceptual installations. This fundamental period of Lamelas's artistic practice became the basis of his future work, for which he has received critical acclaim.

Arrangement note

Subjects - Names
Lamelas, David, 1946-

Subjects - Corporate Bodies
Bienal Internacional de Sao Paulo
Centro de Artes Visuales (Instituto Torcuato Di Tella)

Subjects - Topics
Art--Modern--20th century
Artists--Latin American
Cinematography, Abstract
Conceptual Art
Experimental Films--Argentina
Installations (Art)

Subjects - Titles
David Lamelas: fifteen years: October 1978, Center of Art and Communication.

Genres and Forms of Material
Correspondence
Drawings (visual works)
Film stills
Photographic prints
Photographs, Original
Posters--20th century
Screenplays
Sketchbooks--20th Century
Storyboards

Contributors
Bienal Internacional de Sao Paulo
Centro de Artes Visuales (Instituto Torcuato Di Tella)

Series I. Sculptural and installation works 1960-2004

Physical Description: .2 linear feet 11 folders
Scope and Content Note
Series comprises preparatory materials, including notes, drawings and sketches, and correspondence, for sculpture and installation pieces.

Box 1, Folder 1  "A study of relationships between inner and outer space" 1960s
Physical Description: 10.0 items

Box 1, Folder 2  "A study of relationships between inner and outer space," in Spanish 1960s
Physical Description: 12.0 items
Series I. Sculptural and installation works 1960-2004

Box 1, Folder 3
"Office of information about the Vietnam War at three levels: the visual image, text, and audio" and plans for alternate versions of the "Newsroom" 1968
Physical Description: 8.0 items

Box 1, Folder 4
Garden project, Christ Church College, Oxford 1968
Physical Description: 8.0 items

Box 1, Folder 5
InSITE project 1997
Physical Description: 15.0 items

Box 1, Folder 6
"Analysis of elements by which the massive consumption of information takes place" 1968
Physical Description: 1.0 item

Box 1, Folder 7
Site-specific installation: notes and sketches, plus two silver foil cut-outs undated
Physical Description: 16.0 items

Box 1, Folder 8
Site-specific installations undated
Physical Description: 7.0 items

Box 1, Folder 9-11
Sculptural/installation projects: sketches and drawings undated
Physical Description: 24.0 items

Box 4*, Folder 1-2
Site-specific installations: sketches and drawings undated
Physical Description: 7.0 items

Series II. Films 1969-2004
Physical Description: .25 linear feet 13 folders
Scope and Content Note
Notes, drawings and sketches, scripts, and other preparatory materials document Lamelas's film making.

Box 1, Folder 12
"Time as Activity" 1969
Physical Description: 16.0 items

Box 1, Folder 13
"People and Time" 1969
Physical Description: 6.0 items

Box 1, Folder 14
"A new dimension of time" reading by Jorge Luis Borges from film "A new refutation of time" 1970
Physical Description: 5.0 items

Box 1, Folder 15
"Film 18 Paris IV" 1970
Physical Description: 13.0 items

Box 1, Folder 16
"Interview" with Marguerite Duras 1970
Physical Description: 3.0 items

Box 1, Folder 17
"Cumulative Script" 1971
Physical Description: 7.0 items
Box 1, Folder 18  "To pour milk into a glass" 1972
   Physical Description: 1.0 item

Box 1, Folder 19  "The manipulation of meaning" 1972
   Physical Description: 2.0 items

Box 1, Folder 20  "Film Script" 1972-1975
   Physical Description: 16.0 items

Box 1, Folder 21  "The Violent Tapes," LA version, early steps manuscript 1975
   Physical Description: 2.0 items

Box 1, Folder 22  "The Desert People" and notes for another film, unknown title 1985
   Physical Description: 7.0 items

Box 1, Folder 23  "The Dictator" and "The Dictator Returns" 1985
   Physical Description: 11.0 items

Box 1, Folder 24  "L'effet: Ecrans" 2004
   Physical Description: 1.0 item

Series III. Textual works ca. 1970
   Physical Description: .1 linear feet 3 folders
   Scope and Content Note
   Materials relate to Lamelas's "Publication" of 1970 and a project for a book.

Box 2, Folder 1  "Publication" 1970
   Physical Description: 8.0 items

Box 2, Folder 2  "Publication" 1970
   Physical Description: 8.0 items

Box 5*, Folder 2-3  "Publication": uncut sheets, annotated 1970
   Physical Description: 43.0 items

Box 2, Folder 3  Project for a book undated
   Physical Description: 1.0 item

Series IV. Proposals and notes for unrealized works undated
   Physical Description: .1 linear feet 3 folders
   Scope and Content Note
   Drawings, notes, written proposals for unrealised works. One drawings is oversize.

Box 2, Folder 4-6  Proposals, notes, sketches, drawings undated
   Physical Description: 36.0 items

Box 5*, Folder 4  Oversized drawing for unrealized work undated
   Physical Description: 1.0 item

Series V. Correspondence 1956-1977
   Physical Description: 5.0 folder(s).15 linear feet
   Scope and Content Note
   33 letters and telegrams to Lamelas and 30 draft letters from Lamelas.
| Box 2, Folder 7 | **Letters and telegrams to David Lamelas from others 1956-1971**  
Physical Description: 13.0 items |
| --- | --- |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | **Letters to David Lamelas from others 1972-1977**  
Physical Description: 8.0 items |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | **Letters to David Lamelas from others undated**  
Physical Description: 12.0 items  
Scope and Content Note  
Plus 6 empty envelopes. |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | **Drafts of letters from Lamelas to others ca. 1969**  
Physical Description: 13.0 items |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | **Drafts of letters from Lamelas to others undated**  
Physical Description: 17.0 items |

**Series VI. Personal documents and writings 1967-1994**  
Physical Description: .2 linear feet 9 folders  
Scope and Content Note  

| Box 2, Folder 12 | **Saint Martin's School of Art admission documents 1968**  
Physical Description: 2.0 items |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | **Spiral-bound notebook, notes for English lessons in London ca. 1977**  
Physical Description: 1.0 item |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | **Small accordion-style sketch book 1988**  
Physical Description: 1.0 item |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | **Small book with sketches and addresses 1991**  
Physical Description: 1.0 item |
| Box 2, Folder 16 | **Small fabric-covered sketch book 1991-1993**  
Physical Description: 1.0 item |
| Box 2, Folder 17 | **Small fabric-covered sketch book 1994**  
Physical Description: 1.0 item  
Scope and Content Note  
with loose inserts (2 photographs, one invitation, two post-it notes) |
| Box 2, Folder 18 | **Writings by and about Lamelas 1967-1972**  
Physical Description: 31.0 items  
Scope and Content Note  
Lecture notes, interview transcripts, exhibition catalog notes. |
| Box 2, Folder 19 | **1967?**  
Physical Description: 9.0 items |
**Series VI. Personal documents and writings 1967-1994**

- **Box 2, Folder 19**  
  **ca. 1968-1970**  
  Physical Description: 11.0 items

- **Box 2, Folder 20**  
  **1972?**  
  Physical Description: 12.0 items

- **Box 2, Folder 21**  
  Writings by and about Lamelas: lecture notes, interview transcripts, personal notes undated  
  Physical Description: 12.0 items

**Series VII. Photographic materials 1944-1997**

- **Box 3, Folder 1**  
  Personal family photographs ca. 1944-1960  
  Physical Description: 3.0 items

- **Box 3, Folder 2**  
  "Time as Activity" and "Signaling of 3 objects" 1966-1969  
  Physical Description: 2.0 items

- **Box 3, Folder 3**  
  Negatives and contact prints for "Lamelas" poster, other works 1964-1966  
  Physical Description: 8.0 items

- **Box 3, Folder 4**  
  "Situacion del Tiempo" 1967  
  Physical Description: 2.0 items

- **Box 3, Folder 5-6**  
  Personal snapshots from Sao Paolo Biennale 1967  
  Physical Description: 22.0 items

- **Box 3, Folder 7**  
  "Time '70-71": photographs and contact sheets 1970-1971  
  Physical Description: 5.0 items

- **Box 3, Folder 8**  
  Portraits of David Lamelas in Buenos Aires 1960s  
  Physical Description: 10.0 items

- **Box 3, Folder 9-10**  
  "The Dictator": photographs 1985  
  Physical Description: 25.0 items

- **Box 3, Folder 11**  
  "Manila Run": photographs, contact sheets, negatives 1987  
  Physical Description: 17.0 items

- **Box 3, Folder 12**  
  "Gun": photographs 1994  
  Physical Description: 6.0 items

- **Box 3, Folder 13**  
  "Viviendas," "Marseille + House": photographs, contact prints, and negatives 1995-1996  
  Physical Description: 8.0 items

- **Box 5*, Folder 1**  
  "Encore Bruxelles Show": negatives and contact prints 1997  
  Physical Description: 5.0 items
Series VII. Photographic materials 1944-1997

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 14</th>
<th>Black &amp; white photographs of Lamelas undated</th>
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<tbody>
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Series VIII. Printed matter 1967-1989

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 15</th>
<th>Publicity materials for Lamelas's exhibitions 1970-1989</th>
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<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 16</th>
<th>Invitations and announcements for exhibitions by others ca. 1969-1972</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Box 4*, Folder 3</th>
<th>Invitations and announcements for exhibitions by others ca. 1967</th>
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<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 17</th>
<th>Spanish-language newspaper clippings undated</th>
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<tr>
<th>Box 5*, Folder 5</th>
<th>Portuguese-language newspaper clipping about the IX Sao Paolo Biennale 1967</th>
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<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 18</th>
<th>&quot;David Lamelas fifteen years&quot; from the Center of Art and Communication 1978</th>
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