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On Labor: A Visual Dialogue

Jaime Permuth and Ian Wagreich

(Guatemala & U.S.)

On view November 7- December 10, 2012

AMA | F Street Photo Gallery

Organization of American States

1889 F Street, NW

Washington, DC 20006

Hours MON-FRI | 9 AM-5 PM

Wednesday, November 7 at 6pm

Opening reception



AMA | Art Museum of the Americas of the OAS announces the opening of *On Labor: A Visual Dialogue* at its F Street Gallery, an exhibition of photography by Guatemalan Jaime Permuth and American Ian Wagreich.

This exhibit is part the AMA's celebration of Guatemala as the host country of the OAS 2013 General Assembly. The exhibition will be inaugurated by the Guatemalan Ambassador to the OAS, Rodrigo Vielmann.

The works presented in the exhibit critically examine labor in our late-industrial age, furthering AMA's mission of promoting an open artistic dialogue on themes central to the OAS and the Inter-American agenda, such as development, environmental preservation, employment and

hemispheric cultural exchange.

By focusing on either the production of new objects or the recyclability of used and discarded objects, this dialogue on transformative labor seeks to shed new light on the relationship between humans and machines and, ultimately, to transform our understanding of capital, raw materials, productivity, monotony, responsibility, communion, and solidarity.



Jaime Pemuth's *Yonkeros* puts forward a poetic view of a recycling yard on Long Island. The name *Yonkeros* is a Spanish play on the English expression "junk," and designates people who work or are otherwise intimately tied up with junk. The series captures the diversity of faces and the

uncanny landscape of a junkyard. Jaime's work lends itself to a close-up and intimate look at the labor of *yonkeros*, capturing contrasting textures and elements of that labor.

Ian Wagreich's series *Blue America at Work* documents factory workers in the US. Bringing his experience with documentaries to bear on the subject of transformative labor, Ian's photographs transmit the industrialist aspect, the overbearing abstract instrumentality of the surroundings, without losing sight of the workers, not just as functionaries, but also as unique personalities. As such, this series depicts with emotional honesty and conceptual sharpness the tensions that exist on the frontlines of production between humans and machines.