



*Dancefloor: Los Angeles*

curated by Daniela Lieja Quintanar

Mexico City has a long history of art collectives and groups, as well as community self-organization and activism, principally emerging from moments of crisis, there is an interest in getting together for collective action.

Los Angeles and Southern California likewise have a history of organized and active groups; for example, the United Farmer Workers springing from the Chicano Civil Rights Movement, or the art collective ASCO, and, recently Ultra-Red.

**Colectivo AM** is a group of artists practicing dance and performing arts who have collaborated with visual artists across disciplines. They work under the idea that artistic practice is entirely connected to social, political and regional realities (understanding region as a fluid concept, applicable in some cases to a city, to Latin America, to the international dance community...).

The newly amplified political crisis situation of the U.S. demands consideration of the urgency and necessity for people to find creative ways to organize themselves and connect with organizations that already have been doing collective work.

LACE believes the process of building and supporting collectives is fundamental to both grassroots change and artistic innovation. We believe creating connections through collectives in cities like Mexico City and Los Angeles not only continues a long-shared dialogue in the arts, but strengthens the power and impact of the individual collective and the community it interacts with as well.

**LACE** and **Colectivo AM** propose **La Pista de Baile: Los Angeles (Dancefloor: Los Angeles)** as an experiment that reflects and rethinks how community relationships are articulated in each city, employing a critical point of view via the concepts of expanded dance, performance, and choreography.

Los Angeles is known for its lack of public space and its love of the automobile, which isolates its residents and prevents collective experience while promoting a sense of distance across the

sprawling city. Being located in a walking area, LACE's home on Hollywood Boulevard is a very unique urban space, hosting multicultural pedestrians and the art community.



**La Pista de Baile: Los Angeles** project has three main components:

- *Live Research Station*
- *Banco Universal de Pasos* (Universal Bank of Steps)
- Final Performance: *La Pista de Baile*

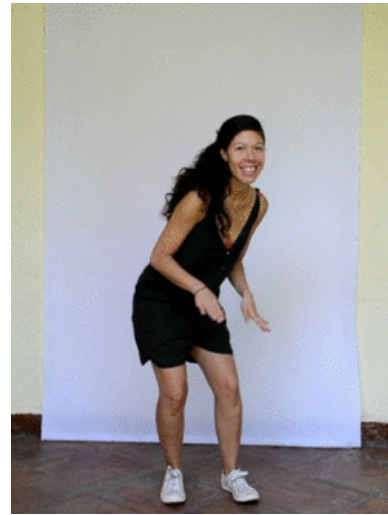
**Colectivo AM** and **LACE** propose to take the building's storefront as a *Live Research Station* and expand it into Los Angeles' streets through dance. The *Live Research Station* will be a space where the public can consult historical content, texts, books, maps of the explored city areas, organizations research, dance and choreographic events, music and dance collectives, documentation of gestural choreographic interventions created by **Colectivo AM** and the programming of *Banco Universal de Pasos*.

*Banco Universal de Pasos* is a portable photo booth that involves the collection of dance steps, soliciting quotidian dance knowledge and assembling an accessible, virtual archive that is made available for people to consult and appropriate. Colectivo AM invites the public to donate a dance step to the "bank", with each step as photograph or video that is converted into a GIF.

An itinerant *Banco Universal de Pasos* will be displayed in different neighborhoods around Los Angeles. Beginning with the dance steps' collection at Hollywood Blvd in front of the LACE building, it will be presented during regular gallery hours through night hours to engage diverse audiences. *Banco Universal de Pasos* will then travel to other public spaces around the city in

collaboration with art and/or activist organizations around Los Angeles, such as La Conxa (Boyle Heights), Holy Grounds Coffee and Tea (El Sereno), Kaos Network (Leimert Park) and North East Los Angeles Alliance NELA (Highland Park).

The *Banco Universal de Pasos* will serve to create strong social connections and develop a collective body. The *Banco* will then become the core source of the Final Performance: *La Pista de Baile*.



*La Pista de Baile* invites the public to dance while the *Banco Universal de Pasos* is screened to share with the people, with the premise to keep active the collective body. Much has been lost to dance on stage, and it is important to rethink the form as community activity, even within an artistic context. *La Pista de Baile* is designed as a choreographic device in which the action and the movement of the bodies are produced and sustained by the participants, who actively contribute rather than just observe. As with any choreographic mechanism, this proposes rhythm, time, and space but, control is left to the participants.

*La Pista de Baile* will be realized in a large public space where people will meet to create collective action through dance and with the support of the newly created Los Angeles *Banco Universal de Pasos*. This performance is an experiment to self-organize a group of people to act collectively across the different geographies of Los Angeles. We are planning to collaborate with other organizations to secure an accessible venue with ample space to open up the performance as many people as possible. LACE is currently considering LA City College or Hollywood Recreation Center. Colectivo AM and LACE will work together with DJ collectives to create a playlist for this collective choreography, such as RAIL UP, Dub Lab, Chulita Vinyl Club, Metralleta de Oro among others.

*La Pista de Baile* will address the question of how to create community relationships that can evolve into political actions. Intended not only for mature and specialist audiences but embracing popular culture, the project will encourage a wide range of participatory and diverse

publics. Colectivo AM has researched choreographic phenomena that emerge from everyday life, far from the art world, from viral videos to protests. Colectivo AM's explorations hold the highest potential for radicalizing choreographic practice.

#### Timeline:

- Three members of Colectivo AM will make an initial visit to Los Angeles (3-4 days), learning more about LACE and its surroundings, and also meet with other groups and organizations around the city. August-September
- Research will be developed together with LACE Curatorial Associate.
- Colectivo AM will arrive two weeks prior to the final performance to begin developing the project in the city.
- First week: The *Live Research Station* will be installed (January 8-10) and open to the public at LACE (Jan 11) and will be continuously receiving all content generated during the two weeks.  
Colectivo AM will take gestural choreographic interventions (Jan 11-12) in the streets to explore Los Angeles and its varied, potential publics, documenting, showing and analyzing them in the *Live Research Station*.
- *Banco Universal de Pasos* (Jan 13-14 and 17-19) will collect donated dance steps around the city and will exhibit at *Live Research Station*.
- Colectivo AM will present a final performance (Jan 20), venue TBD that will include the application of the research and the participation of the public in their non-traditional performance and choreography.

About dates: LACE has booked all January 2018 for this project, we would like to discuss the best days to present the final project according with the REDCAT Festival and others events related with PST: LA/LA, dates. Our preference is to have Final Performance: *La Pista de Baile* on a Sunday evening.

#### LINKS

[www.colectivoam.wordpress.com](http://www.colectivoam.wordpress.com)

#### La Pista de Baile

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4diDrIGLQQ&index=5&list=PLOJKZc6uTaqP0GjGwhWuskTgFcmWfL\\_Ti](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4diDrIGLQQ&index=5&list=PLOJKZc6uTaqP0GjGwhWuskTgFcmWfL_Ti)

#### Banco Universal de Pasos

<http://tirate-un-paso.tumblr.com/>



## LACE

### History

Founded in 1978 by a core group of committed artists, LACE is an internationally recognized pioneer among art institutions. LACE is a nonprofit venue that exhibits and advocates for innovations in art-making and public engagement. Uniquely positioned among commercial galleries and major art establishments at the heart of Hollywood as a free, open to the public experimental space, LACE has nurtured not only several generations of young artists, but also emerging art forms such as performance art, video art, digital art, and installations. LACE presents significant and timely performances, exhibitions and public projects, which are complemented by education initiatives. LACE's core values have remained the same since its founding in 1978:

*A dedication to the art of our time that focuses on freedom of expression, experimentation with ideas, materials, and new forms, and content that is challenging and socially engaging.*

In nearly 40 years of consistent, high quality programming, LACE has presented the work of more than 5,000 artists in 3,000 programs and events, providing the impetus for dialogue about contemporary art and culture. Some of today's most influential figures who received early support from LACE include Mike Kelley, John Baldessari, Bill Viola, Adrian Piper and Harry Gamboa Jr. LACE has consistently given voice to the visions of Los Angeles' diverse makers and curators, offering a 3,500 sq. foot gallery storefront space facing Hollywood Blvd., intimate programming in a 350 sq. ft. Project Room gallery and an ongoing educational series of online videos targeted to a broad public. Visitors come from all over the U.S. and the world.

LACE presents diverse programs in performance. Recent ones include:

- *Solitude, My Sweetest Choice!* Created by Radhouane El Meddeb. Five professional dancers from Los Angeles participated, curated by Shoghig Halajian. (December 2-3, 2016). MAP Fund supported.
- *Five Psycho-Magic Actions Against Violence* by Pocha Nostra. (April 16, 2016)
- *Irrational Exhibits 9: Reports From the Field* (June 8, 2016)
- taisha paggett with WXPT created *The School for the Movement of the Technicolor People* in collaboration with Ashley Hunt and Kim Zumpfe, curated by Robert Crouch. (November 12, 2015). MAP Fund supported.