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MEDIA CONTACT: SHANI K PARSONS | INFO@TYPOLOGY.CA



## THE NEW GODS | ALEJANDRO GARCIA CONTRERAS and JOSÉE PEDNEAULT

MAY 7 – JUNE 14, 2015 – Opening Reception Thursday, May 7th from 6 – 8 pm

TYPOLOGY is thrilled to present a **Featured Exhibition** in this year's Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival, THE NEW GODS, a cross-continental collaboration between Canadian artist Josée Pedneault (Montreal) and Mexican artist Alejandro Garcia Contreras (Mexico City). Featuring an extraordinary series of large-scale photographs, this project examines fantastical rites of spring that have emerged spontaneously within Carrillo Puerto, an isolated village in the mountains of Chiapas in southern Mexico. The exhibition will also include a select grouping of smaller sculptures and paintings as an extension of the photographic subject matter into other media, an experimental approach which is integral to this multidisciplinary collaboration.

Each spring for the past several years, Carrillo Puerto has undertaken a most unusual interpretation of the Via Crucis, the religious tradition of reenacting the events leading up to Christ's death on Good Friday. Elsewhere in Mexico it is a day of organized procession, penitence, and mourning, but in this small village it has evolved into an irreverent, chaotic, and carnivalesque celebration of the absurd. Drawing on an unholy mix of religious beliefs, local and popular culture, pagan traditions, and personal mythologies, participants don homemade costumes that are highly transformative, often verging on pure abstraction. The chimerical personalities they assume become an alternate pantheon of strange deities and demons, existing in opposition to the highly codified characters and narratives of the traditional Passion play.

THE NEW GODS is the first exhibition to feature the collaborative work of Alejandro Garcia Contreras and Josée Pedneault in Canada, and is Garcia Contreras' first show in Toronto.

**Alejandro Garcia Contreras** has exhibited widely in Mexico at venues including the Museum of Modern Art and Museo Experimental "El Eco" in Mexico City, and Centro Cultural Jaime Sabines in Tuxtla Gutierrez Chiapas, as well as internationally. In 2008 he co-founded the Laboratorio de Artes de Chiapas and in 2009 he joined Neter, an initiative promoting young Mexican artists around the world. Garcia Contreras holds a Bachelor's degree in visual art from the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes in Mexico City and has received awards from Artfest International (2006) and the FONCA Jovenes Creadores (2009, 2014).

**Josée Pedneault** holds an MFA (hon) in studio art from Concordia University and has exhibited locally and internationally in Europe and Asia. In 2007 she received the People's Choice Award at Le Mois de la photo in Montreal, and in 2010 her work was included in the Canadian Pavillion exhibition at the World's Fair in Shanghai. Pedneault is co-founder and board president of Les Territoires, a nonprofit organization providing opportunities to emerging artists and curators. She also teaches photography at Concordia.

**Providing opportunities for independent curators and participating artists to mount fully realized exhibitions within a critical framework, TYPOLOGY is a not-for-profit project space which seeks to build curatorial community and resources for the exchange of ideas on art and exhibition-making as a way to engage and inform audiences from all walks of life.**

**TYPOLOGY**  
PROJECTS

180 SHAW ST / SUITE 302 / ARTSCAPE YOUNGPLACE / TORONTO / ONTARIO / M6J 2W5 / WWW.TYPOLOGY.CA / INFO@TYPOLOGY.CA  
REGULAR EXHIBITION HOURS: FRI-SUN 12-5 PM AND BY APPOINTMENT / EXTENDED HOURS FOR DOORS OPEN: 10-5 MAY 24-25

## ABOUT TYPOLOGY

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### OUR MISSION

TPOLOGY is an independent not-for-profit initiative which provides opportunities for curators and participating artists to mount fully realized exhibitions within a critical framework.

Through a wide-ranging annual program of exhibitions supported by the production of original publications, editions, and events, TPOLOGY is an open platform for diverse curatorial practices and perspectives, and a forum for the exchange of ideas on exhibition-making as a way to engage and inform audiences from all walks of life.

### VISIT US!

Our yearly program of exhibitions and events runs from September through June. When exhibitions are on, the project space is open Friday–Sunday 12–5 pm and by appointment. Please visit [www.typology.ca](http://www.typology.ca) for current information and hours.

Subscribe for updates + invites at [www.typology.ca/blog](http://www.typology.ca/blog), or follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/TPOLOGY](https://facebook.com/TPOLOGY)), Twitter (@TypologyCA), Tumblr ([typology.tumblr.com](http://typology.tumblr.com)), or Instagram ([instagram.com/typologica](https://instagram.com/typologica)) for the latest happenings.

### Exhibitions

*As an intimate venue for exhibitions, TPOLOGY emphasizes highly focused art and curatorial projects with an eye toward stimulating cross-disciplinary dialogue between artists, art forms, ideas, images, objects, and environments.*

### Editions

*Through our publishing program, each show is documented in a professionally designed exhibition catalogue with original curatorial writing. Affordable limited-edition prints are also produced in collaboration with exhibiting artists as an invitation to collectors of all ages.*

### Events

*Through an inclusive and varied program of events, TPOLOGY seeks to enrich the exhibition experience and encourage active audience participation in our projects and programming.*

*TPOLOGY accepts curatorial proposals and artist's portfolios on a rolling basis. Submission guidelines for curators and artists can be found on our the home page of our website.*

## TPOLOGY

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