



Brent Artists Resource



## **Spanish Artist Lorenzo Belenguer's Groundbreaking Olympic Testament Fills London's Streets (And The Internet)**

An Olympic art installation that gives a voice to Londoners is being broadcast in major public spaces through London 2012, thanks to the support of the BBC and the GLA (General London Authority).

High resolution images can be downloaded are available online:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/londonerstestimonies/sets/>

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TESTIMONES was created by the Spanish artist Lorenzo Belenguer in response to his local community wanting to become more involved in this year's Olympic and Paralympic Games. Selected by the Olympic Committee as a top 10 project from hundreds of others, it has been adopted as one of the Cultural Olympiad's key cultural projects and is now being broadcast in collaboration with one of London's major institutions: the BBC.

This project takes raw interviews and testimonies from those who were part of the 1948 Games and are part of this year's Games, and shares these experiences in short videos. These videos will be, or have already been, broadcast in locations include the new University of the Arts at King's Cross, the Polish Cultural Centre, Willesden Green Centre and other locations.

Smartly, Testimonies keeps building on this via Social Media. A contribution about London 2012 to this project can be made via Facebook: Testimonies London, Twitter: TestimoniesLDN with the use of the hashtag #ThisIsMyTestimonyLondon and Vimeo: Testimonies London.

Munira Mirza, Advisor on Culture and Youth to the Mayor of London Boris Johnson, said: 'We want as many Londoners as possible getting involved in the 2012 Games, being inspired by both the sporting action and the wide-ranging programme being planned as part of the Cultural Olympiad. TESTIMONIES is a wonderful project, connecting local people to one of the most exciting years in London's history and creating a fascinating record for long after the athletes have run and the medals have been won.'

Belenguer, who is also director of exhibitions at the Gallery Willesden Green BAR and has had his work exposed at the Tate Modern, explains that "this project's driving aim is to connect local people with one of the most exciting years in the history of London and

create a dynamic conversation around the Games. The main question for us is: What kind of relationship do Londoners have with the Olympics? And we want this conversation to fill London's streets and the internet via Social Media."

Jonathan Edwards, Deputy Chair of the London 2012 Nations and Regions group said: 'The Inspire programme is an Olympic and Paralympic first and projects like TESTIMONIES will go down in the history books as one of the fantastic projects that used the power of the 2012 Games to inspire a generation.'

TESTIMONIES can also be found in Willesden Green, the Polish Cultural Centre, Waltham Forest and in central Soho, amongst other locations. It has also created a diverse web presence and everybody is welcome to make contributions via social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and Vimeo.

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<http://www.flickr.com/photos/londonerstestimonies/sets/>

For more information and listen to stories, please visit the website:  
<http://www.LondonersTestimonies.com>

If you need more information, please contact Lorenzo Belenguer on:  
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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TESTIMONIESLondon>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/testimoniesldn>

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/londonerstestimonies/>

Lorenzo Belenguer, who was born in 1970 in Valencia, has over ten year's experience in running art projects in international settings. His work has been displayed in a number of exhibitions including at the Tricycle Theatre, London ('2011 Broken'), and the Tate Modern in May 2011.

His work straddles the realms of sculpture, painting and drawing. Currently the Spaniard is working on a project for the 'Culture Olympiad for London 2012'. An economics graduate prior to changing career path, Belenguer lived and worked in Paris before arriving in London where his art has developed further. He has mounted and participated in exhibitions in unorthodox spaces over the years.

About the Inspire programme: The Inspire programme has been running since 2008 and officially recognises and rewards exceptional, non-commercial projects inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. These projects are awarded the Inspire mark and are allowed to claim an official link to the Games in a way that no previous Olympic or Paralympic Games have made possible. Inspire brings the benefits of the Games to all nations and regions of the UK, driving change and giving millions the opportunity to feel part of this once-in-a-lifetime event.

TESTIMONIES is a £65,000 project with a £30,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and is supported by Brent Artists' Resource. A Make your own Testimony kit has been provided to local councils and community groups and can be downloaded from the website. We are very grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund for their constant support to this project. It would not have been possible without it.

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported 30,000 projects, allocating £4.6billion across the UK, including £868million in London alone.