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# Mark Tribe's Port Huron Project via Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions

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Christopher Knight / Los Angeles Times

**REENACTMENT:** Actor Ricardo Dominguez performs a César Chávez speech during Mark Tribe's "We Are Also Responsible."

**Also reviewed:** David Amico at Ace Gallery Beverly Hills, Robert Gutierrez at Sister Gallery and Andy Warhol at Michael Kohn Gallery

By Christopher Knight, Times Art Critic  
July 25, 2008

Early Saturday evening, Providence, R.I.-based artist **Mark Tribe** orchestrated a reenactment of a 1971 speech by Chicano labor activist César Chávez protesting the Vietnam War. On the South Lawn of Exposition Park, midway between the Natural History Museum and the Coliseum, a call went out for "organized and disciplined nonviolent action," aimed squarely at those "seeking [their] manhood in affluence and war."

Actor Ricardo Dominguez spoke from the podium to a crowd that numbered perhaps one-tenth of the 2,600 who had gathered in the park 37 years earlier. Tribe's audience, in fact, was roughly equal to the number of uniformed police and plainclothes officers reported at the original (peaceful) event. Most of the attendees were probably not yet born then or were too young to remember when the brilliant, charismatic Chávez joined Jane Fonda, Donald Sutherland and other speakers calling for nonviolent civil disobedience to deter American militarism abroad.

The original event represented cross-fertilization in two New Left social movements, pro-labor and antiwar. Its star power -- Fonda and Sutherland's Oscar-winning "Klute" was just about to be released -- also gained special wattage from Chávez's presence. Two weeks earlier, when the California Supreme Court unanimously ruled that his free speech rights were violated by an injunction against a lettuce boycott, he had been released from jail. He had been locked up for contempt.

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The performance piece, funded by New York's Creative Time and coordinated by Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, was the fourth of six reenactments in Tribe's [Port Huron Project](#). It was no doubt a bit less surreal here than the first three might have been.

During the last 22 months, a 1968 Coretta Scott King speech was staged in New York City's Central Park, a 1971 address by author and activist Howard Zinn was repeated on Boston Common, and a speech given at the 1965 march on Washington by Paul Potter, president of Students for a Democratic Society, was given again on the National Mall. (Tribe's project takes its name from the Port Huron Statement

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