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STORY HEADLINE: THE BALL GAME OF YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES' ARTIST IN RESIDENCE LEANDRO ERLICH BRING STREETS OF BUENOS AIRES TO LIFE AS PART OF YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES CELEBRATION.

DATE: 11 October, 2018
LOCATION: Buenos Aires, Argentina
LANGUAGE: English, Spanish

Broadcast quality footage available at the IOC Newsroom: http://iocnewsroom.com

STORY SCRIPT:

The streets of Buenos Aires were turned into a moving piece of art as world-renowned conceptual artist Leandro Erlich brought to life the Olympic values at the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in Buenos Aires 2018.

'Ball Game', an ensemble of five large-scale hyper-realistic sport balls (basketball, football, golf, tennis and volleyball) was commissioned by the IOC to mark the first-ever Olympism in Action Forum and YOG in Argentina.

The ambitious project was a collaboration between the City of Buenos Aires and the IOC's Artist in Residence Leandro Erlich with the key aim of being as interactive with citizens and spectators as possible.

Initially situated outside of the Olympism in Action Forum at the Exhibition and Convention Centre of Buenos Aires, where members of the Olympic Movement and civil society discussed key topics related to sport and society.

Members of the public helped to move the giant balls across the city, bringing to life the Olympic notion of coming together. The installation came to rest in the Parque Tres de Febrero at the city’s Planetarium Galileo Galilei in the neighbourhood of Palermo.

The balls are intended as a visual expression of the unifying the spirit of friendship, excellence and respect while moving them provoked both collaboration and fraternity, all values linked closely with the Olympic spirit. The giant balls will remain in place for the duration of the Games.

Buenos Aires 2018 is the third edition of the Summer Youth Olympic Games (YOG) to be held, bringing together the world’s best young athletes between the ages of 15 and 18.
For the first time in Olympic history the Games will have gender equality, with equal numbers of males and females competing in the 32-sport programme.

Almost 4,000 athletes from 206 National Olympic Committees will be competing for 1,250 medals. The Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018 feature new sports and many new disciplines and events, reflecting the passions of the ‘Game Changers’, a new generation of athletes and fans.

The event offers a glimpse into the future of the Games as the new programme will introduce several innovations that will be replicated at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

The first Summer Olympic Games took place in Singapore in 2010. The second edition was held in the Chinese city of Nanjing in 2014.

**SHOTLIST:**

00:02 Wide view of the balls and the people in the streets.
00:09 Aerial view of one of the balls over the street.
00:14 Close view of Leandro Erlich, artist in residence Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018, talking with a child.
00:19 Close view of Leandro.
00:25 Musicians playing music while walking on the street.
00:29 Action of the people pushing the balls through the streets.
00:51 Close view of Erlich in his warehouse.
00:58 The five balls being pushed through Figueroa Alcorta Avenue.
01:02 Close view of Leandro with Anja Wodsak, Art and Culture Project Manager at the IOC.
01:11 Action of the balls over the street.
01:17 Action of Leandro working in the confection of the big balls.
01:35 Close view of Leandro being interviewed.
01:41 Action of Erlich working in his gallery in Buenos Aires.
02:03 Action of the interview with the residence artist.
02:06 Action of the balls in the streets of Buenos Aires.
02:18 Leandro interview in the final location of the balls.
02:22 Erlich taking a photo of the balls.
02:26 A little child over her father’s shoulders.
02:30 Leandro interview the Ball Game day.
02:40 Action of the musicians.
02:48 Leandro at his workhouse.
02:54 Action of the Ball Game day.
03:15 Shots of Erlich interview.
03:23 Shots of the musicians and people dancing.
03:24 **SOUNDBITE:** Leandro Erlich, Artist in Residence, Youth Olympic Games, Buenos Aires 2018 (English Language)

"The first thought about taking part in this event for the Youth Olympic Games and the Olympic Forum in Buenos Aires was how I would be able to create something that would be trying to express the Olympic values and link this into something that would be interactive and accessible to a large audience. The imagination of what the Olympics means for society and create a new story and in this case the project is actually funny because is proposing a new game, a game that is not yet part of the Olympics. To be a spectator is already a way to participate but in this game, I thought that I wanted to revert
and to push forward the level of action where people would be actually not only watching but also playing the game. To achieve this project was a big challenge starting by a long conversation with the Olympic Foundation and back and forth and analysing every aspect. Of course even before jumping into the production which is quite ambitious there was a matter of collaboration with the Minister of Culture, with the city departments and I really enjoyed this project that tend to be a collective project started by being collectively planned. The balls will remain here until the end of the games and within this time people will be able to play with them. It is a very simple rule balls must role and by the collective action of people, so they will orbitate around the Planetary by the way not by the cosmic forces of the universe but by the active action of people. Think there are many things have in common sports and art, from my point of view if I have to define with one word, the word would be a challenge, that would be the word, and because both artists and people in sport we are about trying to achieve a level of excellence and we intend to do better and better, and win over ourselves before eventually winning to others.”

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