

Sultana

Pia Camil

Espectacular Telón

19 october - 23 november 2013

The world is this stage. With word and deed we insert ourselves into it. Here, these small black letters you are reading insert you. Or perhaps you insert yourself by reading, standing, watching, waiting for something that may or may not come?

//////////

The real question then is: what is this world we insert ourselves or are inserted into? If we are active—actors—then are we on stage. Or are we behind stage? Are we watching for the curtains to open/slide/fall? A show.

//////////

A curtain is a beginning. We are beginning. We are beginners. The spectacle is to watch. To be watched. A show. A revelation. To watch the beginning. To come into birth. Something new is happening here. Something is being born. To act (so as) to set something in motion. Something new. To move. To dance/sit/speak. To come into being.

//////////

Speculum=mirror. Spectacular mirror. Spectacular, means both a lavish performance, a show; but also an elaborate display. This latter use, in Spanish, commonly refers to giant ads on the side of the road. Elaborate display of merchandise—a different kind of exchange and spectacle. Then, eventually, these ads appear garbled and warped, their messages hacked and chopped. Symbols of urban blight, they become this: pure colors, mute, light. Or is this a new language of disappearance and erasure? And yet... With sign and deed they insert themselves into a new world. They are born, at play. Show & Hide. A spectacular curtain. What does it hide? What does it reveal?

//////////

Opening and closing curtains: a domestic ritual, to occupy space. To use one's hands. To make. Birthing. To think with one's fingertips. Touch & Show. Note to self: handmade sounds a lot like handmaid.

//////////

A spectacular is also a public presentation. A curtain also implies a public. So, standing here, we are on the verge: about to jump into action, we set the stage. On/off. Yes/No.

//////////

Listen: Spectacular is also outstanding: are we standing out/in? Remarkable. We make our mark. Look. Listen. It's your hand.

//////////

Pia Camil was born in 1980 in Mexico City, where she continues to live and work. Her work has been shown in Mexico, Colombia, France and the U.S. Camil received her Bachelor's of Fine Arts from The Rhode Island School of Design in 2003 and her Master's of Fine Arts from The Slade School of Fine Art in 2008. In 2009, she formed El Resplendor, a performance-based band. She has received various awards, including the European Honors Program, Palazzo Cenci, Rome, Italy in 2001 and she was nominated for The Paul Hamlyn Award, London in 2008. Camil's work is in the permanent collection of La Colección Jumex, la Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros and the Wattis Museum, amongst others. Her recent exhibitions include "Draft Urbanism", Biennial of the Americas (Denver, Colorado), "Cuadrado negro" at Artium, Basque museum-center of contemporary art (Vitoria, Spain), and "No A trio A" at La Casa Encendida (Madrid, Spain). "Espectacular Telón" is the first solo show by Pia Camil in a gallery.

Gabriela Jauregui