

PRESS RELEASE
June 2009



Confesión, Palma de Mallorca, September 2007

ARTIST: Regina José Galindo (Guatemala 1974)

TITLE: Confesión

Produced, September 2007
DVD (performance to video)
2 min 25 sec.
Edition of 5 + 3 PA

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TO VIEW VIDEO:

www.videoartworld.com/beta/video_295.html#

SPECIAL THANKS:

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In 2007, La Caja Blanca invites Regina José Galindo to visit Palma de Mallorca (Spain) where she produces CONFESIÓN, a series of photographs and a video piece with live performance at its core.

As most of Regina's work, the project is inspired by real life events drawn from contemporary history, which the artist interiorises and ultimately re-lives through metaphor, drawing on live performance to stage the moment.

In *Confesión*, the artist subjects herself to one of several torture methods used by the CIA in the context of the War on Terror. A *verdugo* (torturer) carries out one of several waterboarding techniques, following instructions published in CIA manuals, which have been recently declassified. Galindo endures seven seconds of immersion, seven times.

Towards the end of the piece, something "clicks". The person recruited to act as *verdugo* or torturer, with precise instructions to be followed cold-bloodedly, crosses an invisible line, begins to feel identified with his role, and takes the exercise one step further.

As is often the case with Galindo's work, despite the original socio-historic trigger, the final piece carries broader references, touching on the relationship between victim and victimizer within society at large; a recurring theme in her practice.

ARTIST

Regina José Galindo (Guatemala 1974) is considered to be one of the most subversive voices in contemporary art today. Despite having exhibited widely to great international acclaim - In 2005, Galindo was awarded the prestigious Leone de Oro, at the 51st Biennale di Venezia for best artist under 35 - her work remains decidedly anti-establishment.

Galindo is first and foremost a performance artist who uses her own body to enact and reflect upon the themes which lie beneath her artistic discourse. Her work creates social and cultural memory by constructing fleeting moments of searing hyper-reality where Audience, no longer a passive observer, finds itself transformed into Witness... or Accomplice.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

(Guatemala, 1974) Regina José Galindo has shown internationally in biennales and group shows including the 49th and 51st Venice Biennale, where she received the Golden Lion for best young artist; 2nd Moscow Biennale; 3rd Biennale of Albania, Bienal de Valencia 2007, Spain; Bienal de Arquitectura, Arte Paisaje, Canary Islands, Spain; Tirana; 2nd Prague Biennale; 3rd Biennale of Lima, Peru; 1st Festival of Body Art in Venezuela; 9th Festival de Performance ExTeresa, México. She has also participated in important group shows including Into me Out of Me, PS1 New York; Global Feminism, Brooklyn Museum, US; Courants Alternatifs in Paris and Bordeaux; Il Pottere della Donne, Trento, Italia; Barceló Nuevas Propuestas, Dominican Republic; Jukebox, Loop Video Festival, CCCB Barcelona, Spain; Estrecho Dudoso, Teorética, Costa Rica.

Confesión was first presented by La Caja Blanca at the Loop Art Festival in Barcelona. Since, it has been included in shows across the world:

- The Menil Collection, Houston (June – September, 2008)
- P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York (autumn 2008)
- Modern Art Oxford (January – March 2009)
- Venice Biennale (June – October 2009)