

EXHIBITION REVIEW OF "Reflections On The Irreversible"

ALEXIA MIRANDA:
Museum of Art of El Salvador
March 7- September, 2019

BY PATRICIO MAJANO



Artist and performer Alexia Miranda opened "Reflections On The Irreversible" at The Museum of Art of El Salvador on March 7. The exhibition consist of a video performance diptych and an installation. Miranda explores the idea of the irreversible by representing herself going through a process of liberation and being 'reborn,' by simulating the action of flaying her own skin.



The first video depicts the artist lying on an empty street wearing a protective suit. She proceeds to pour polyurethane foam all over her body until she is completely covered. The foam gradually hardens, invading and trapping her. Miranda uses this harmful material to allude to psychological aspects of the human being she considers toxic.

The artist continues the process by removing the foam covered suit. The second video presents the removed suit laid down on the road as if it were another body, in a way, considered an older version of herself. Then, she performs a funeral-like ceremony, laying flowers around it and lighting candles that ultimately burn parts of the flammable foam.



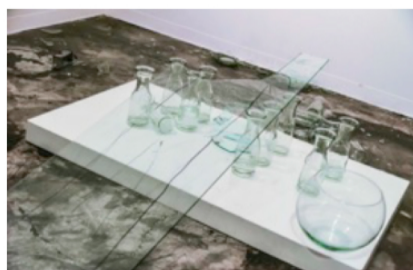
The exhibition recalls processes such as metamorphosis or animals that shed their skin - occurrences that imply growth or development. By relating to these concepts the piece makes visible a self-healing moment where the artist abandons her older skin along with the toxicity attached to it.



Finally, the installation presents the remaining foam surrounded by gravel, mourned, and left behind. Burn marks are visible, echoing the restorative nature of fire. The exhibition presents a balance between the irreversible -what has been left in the past - and the idea of a complete cycle as a moment of self-renewal.

Images: Alexia Miranda, "Reflections about the irreversible", 2019. Video performance and installation. Cameras: Fred Ramos, Mónica Campos. Documentary Photograph: Jaime Rigada. Courtesy the artist.

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Contact Alexia at galaxiasol@gmail.com