

artes letras

EL ETERNO RETORNO Alette EN LA OBRA DE

ADRIANA HERRERA 1. EL NUEVO HERALO

lush, la exposición de Alette ≺ Simmons Jiménez en la galeria Artformt del Minmi Design District, incluye la serie foto-gráfica que da titulo a la exposirisin, el video Recolution and Ecofution, del cual extrajo estas fotofiias tan sugestivas come sercillas en su concepción, y las obras que conforman la instalación Faratastic Fiction. Amoque a lo largo de su carrera artística Simmons ha trobajado medios distintos y puede pasar de la escultura, a la piatura scbre tela o al video o concebir a portir de éste una instalación, la fotografía marcó su iniciación en el arte. Sa podre coleccionaba cinnaras, x siendo muy niña, vivió la fascinación de ver surgir bojo una luz roja, imágenes del mundo fijadas para siempre en blanco y negro.

Como todo en su vida y en su lenguaje artístico, esta exposición es una vuelta a los origenes no sólo per la elección de la fotografía. sino por la l'ave conceptual de las imigenes: la metáfora que encie-rra lo que gira. "Fue un crítico." Alfredo Triff, quien hace un por de años, en una tarde en la que vio mi trabojo, me hizo comprender que la obsesión por lo que da vuel-tas era una obsesión en mi trabojo en el que todo gira sobre si mismo, sea en las líneas del dibujo, en los elementos de un video o en los volumenes", dice Simmons.

Esa visión del tiempo circular que Borges expresaba con la idea de que todo lo que es, ya fue o tornará de nuevo a ser, se reconstruye en el video a partir de una gama de imáseres que aproximan lo cósmico y lo prosalco. Simmons unifica la órbita circular de las lunas del planeta Saturno, con el campo visual que se crea en torno a una poqueña meneda que gira sobre el suelo; y el movimiento giratorio de parejas de danzantes con los desplazamientos circulares de niños que juegan al Turister.

La serie Flush -- obtenida a partir de tres tomas conceladas del video, que proyecta sobre una pared, capcura con la cámara fija y monta en plexiglas— congela en un instante vórtices de colores saturados que se asemejan al ojo de un huracán, o a vientos huracanados que arrastran aguas torrenciales a enormes velocidades. Lo scrprendente no sólo proviene do la belleza que se obtiene al alterar el color de los elementos, sino del modo en que ha sido capturada. Las imágenes no son manipu-ladas digitalmente ni provienen de un centro metercológico. Son, sencillamente, temas hechas en el inodoro de su propia casa. Por supuesto, fue necesario que el ojo advirtiera el movimiento, la simetría, la estética de un elemento tan cotidiano como el agua que corre cumbio se descarga una cisterna y que la artista cambiara el arul de los implementos de asco por una serie de anilinas vecetales que resultan el efecto.

"Estoy enamorada de esa pie za", conflesa. De mievo, la lec-ción proviene del ojo de Duchamp que borró las fronteras entre los objetos. Fantastic Fic-tion es una instalación hecha con rollos de papel sanitario decorados a mano con intrincidas figuras cósmicas y sostenidos

Simmons **Iiménez**





AZERA, "COMINGS AND GOINGS, VIDEO PROTECIADO EN PECHU PEQUEÑA, 2003 ALA DER:CHA DETAILE DE TANDASTIC FRODICH ON SCOTT PREMIUM. A LA PROVIERDA, "BLUE, DRANGE, GREEN, FOR DE LA SERIE FLUS F, 2006

por un soporte de madera. En la idea de extraer fotografías del fluir de las imágenes que capta el video fue importante la asesoría del galerista Daniel Azoulay, quien vio su trabajo en uno de los prime-ros *shous* alternativos de Art Basel en DACRA curado por Bernice Steinhaum, Comines & Goines, el video que entonces creó - una proyección del techo hacia el piso, donde estaba una pequeña piscina infable--- mostraba a una adolescente nadando en circulos, con un letrero que decía —como en los juegos de ruleta de las ferias—. "Round she goes, where she stops, no body Knows". Ese juego de las vueltas y vueltas del destino captado en actos ustarles y objetos cotidianos es el eje de una estética con una visión particular del mundo que Simmons sintetiza en imágenes simples y eficaces #

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Flush', de Alette Simmons, Hasta el 6 de septiembre, Artforma Ca-Bery, 120 NE 40 caile. Suite 2 (306) 572 (040)



THE ETERNAL RETURN IN THE WORK ALETTE SIMMONS-JIMENEZ

by Adriana Herrera * (Translated to English)

Eternal Return

Alette Simmons-Jimenez's exhibition "Flush" at Artformz Gallery in the Miami Design District includes the photographic series of video stills that lends its title to the exhibition; the video "Revolution & Evolution" from which she extracted these images, so suggestive yet equally so simple in their concept; and the works that compose the installation piece "Fantastic Fictions". Although throughout the length her artistic career Simmons has worked with different media, and can move from sculpture to paint on canvas, or to video or from that same impulse create an installation, photography marked her introduction to art. Her father collected cameras and, as a young child, under the glow of a red light, she experienced the fascination of watching pictures of the world appear and be fixed forever in black & white.

Like everything in her life and her artistic dialogue, this exhibition is a return to her roots, not only by her choice of work in photography, but because of the conceptual source of the images: a metaphor to encompass that which turns and returns. "One afternoon, a couple of years ago, the critic Alfredo Triff came by to see my work and the conversation led me to comprehend the fascination I had for things that spin around. It was an obsession in my work where all things turned upon themselves, whether in the lines of drawing, the elements of a video or in my three dimensional formations," says Simmons.

This vision of circular time that Borges expressed with the idea that everything that is, already was and will return to be, is reconstructed in her video through a multiplicity of images that range from the cosmic to the ordinary. Simmons merges the circular orbit of moons round the planet Saturn, with a visual field created around a small coin spinning on the ground; and the whirling motion of dance partners, with the dislocating rotary of the children's game of "Twister".

Using three freeze-frames of video, each individually projected on a wall, captured with a still camera, fixed and mounted on Plexiglas – The series "Flush" has immobilized in an instant, whirlpools of saturated colors that resemble the eye of a hurricane, or hurricane force winds heaving torrential waters at enormous velocity. The beauty of the changing colors of the components is unexpected, as is the manner in which they were captured. The images have not been digitally enhanced nor do they originate from a meteorological centre. They are, simply, footage shot of a toilet flushing in the artist's own home. Of course, it required that her eye notice the movement, symmetry, and aesthetic quality inherent in such a commonplace occurrence as the rotating water in a flushed toilet -- and accentuate the effect -- changing the blue color of the toilet bowl by adding a series of natural food coloring to the water.

"I love that piece," she confesses. Once again, lessons come from the eye of Duchamp who erased the limitations surrounding objects. "Fantastic Fiction" is an installation made with rolls of toilet paper, hand decorated with intricate cosmic figures, then placed on holders and mounted to a wood support.

Distancing herself from the traditional direction of the New Orleans art scene and under the much freer influence of the Dominican artists that Simmons came to know after marrying a man from the island, she began experimenting in video in 1992 with a visual narrative "A Day in the Life of Julie Ozama" (not a coincidence that Ozama is the name of a major Dominican river) that won First Prize in Video in '92 Biennial of Santo Domingo.

Simmons constructed an enormous set in a warehouse to film the story. Julie, a girl from a marginal sector of town, lives day and night, closed in a house/box containing her limited universe, she watches

from the window "the world turns outside, the sun sets and rises again, the passage of time turns and returns on itself, like our lives," says Simmons.

Listening to critical recommendations from gallerist Daniel Azoulay, who saw her work in one of the first alternative shows of Art Basel at DACRA, curated by Bernice Steinbaum, she began work on developing ideas for extracting photographs from the stream of images captured in the videos. He saw her video created at that time "Comings & Goings", a work projected from the ceiling down to the floor, where there was a small inflatable swimming pool that showed an adolescent swimming in circles with a painted text -- as in carnival games of roulette -- "Round & round she goes, where she stops, nobody knows". That game of the turning and turning of destiny, captured in familiar actions and ordinary objects, is the axis of an aesthetic with a personal vision of the world that Simmons synthesizes in simple and effective images.

*Adriana Herrera is an arts writer for El Nuevo Herald the Spanish Language Edition of The Miami Herald.

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