

CUE

ART FOUNDATION

Michelle Dizon

Curated by Mary Kelly

March 23rd – May 12th, 2010

(Opening reception Thursday, March 25th, 6:00 – 8:00pm)

“Michelle Dizon’s work inhabits a strange space. It meanders in the interstices of perceptual systems, narrative conventions and exhibition genres, leaving an ephemeral yet explosive footprint in the definition of an art informed by feminism.”

—Mary Kelly

Still from *Civil Society*, 2009
Video projection, 38 minutes



With an imaginative and deeply poetic approach, Los Angeles-based artist Michelle Dizon skillfully negotiates images that place into question the public recording of history versus that of experience and memory, and the function of the camera in relation to all three. Concerned with the politics and ethics of the field of vision, she works out the ruins of vision, in order to begin to see anew. Issues of race, human rights, citizenship, and social movements come into play, all intertwined with Dizon’s deep interest in examining our notions of difference. Dizon integrates her own video documentation with archival stills and footage, weaving her personal history with societal discourse and media

documents in order to underline the subjectivity of seeing, whether it be through one’s own eye or that of the lens.

Dizon’s examination of vision and its metaphors has brought her to an interest in social uprisings, particularly their definitions, legitimacy and depoliticization. *Civil Society*, on view in her exhibition at CUE Art Foundation, fuses images from both the riots following the 1992 Rodney King beating in Los Angeles and those in 2005 outside of Paris when two young boys of North African descent were killed while running from police. Including her own footage of France and Los Angeles, archival newsreels from the 1965 Watts riots, recent interviews, and segments from the video of the Rodney King beating, these images are transported by Dizon to a realm located between documentary and poetics. A lyrical narrative accompanies the footage, voicing the artist’s concern regarding her own inability to remember anything from the Los Angeles riots, despite living there when they occurred. The fractured, mutable quality of memory shines through the jarring narrative, disjointed imagery placed on a triptych-like screen and manipulation of timing – with Dizon slowing some clips at differing speeds. The entire piece provocatively places before the viewer the many issues surrounding our views and records of history, using the camera as an example of the hindrance they can cause when searching for unity and resolution.



Still from *Civil Society*, 2009
Video projection, 38 minutes

Dizon’s exhibition at CUE Art Foundation, her first in New York City, will be on view during the 18th anniversary of the Los Angeles uprising. Beside the 38-minute installation film *Civil Society*, also on display will be film of three interviews Dizon conducted in 2009, when undocumented workers from North and West Africa, who were living as refugees in the center of Paris after being forcibly evicted from the building of the Labor Union.

(More, over)

For additional information, please contact Ryan Thomas, Programs Coordinator, CUE Art Foundation, 212-206-3583, or email ryan.thomas@cueartfoundation.org

Free catalogues available.

Exhibition-related Programming:

Art and Civil Society, a panel discussion with Mary Hello, Sharon Hayes and Michelle Dizon, Chaired by Wendy Cheng and with Emily Apter as Respondent.

April 20th, 2010, 7:30-9:30pm

New York University's Department of Social and Cultural Analysis

20 Cooper Square, 4th Floor

ARTIST'S BIO:

Michelle Dizon is an artist, filmmaker and writer. Her focus is on questions of postcoloniality, globalization, social movements, human rights, and historical memory. Dizon works between Los Angeles and Manila.

Dizon has had solo exhibitions at the Jorge B. Vargas Museum and Filipiniana Research Center at the University of the Philippines and at The Gallery at UTA, University of Texas at Arlington. Her work has been exhibited at the REDCAT Gallery, Los Angeles; the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco; the Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE); the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive of the University of California; Artist's Television Access, San Francisco; Southern Exposure, San Francisco; Film Arts Foundation, San Francisco; the Cinema Project, Portland; the Women in the Director's Chair Festival, Chicago; the Asian American International Film Festival, New York; the Visual Communications Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival; the San Diego Asian Film Festival; Cinemanila, Makati City, Philippines; Documental, and universities internationally.

She has taught in the Program in Photography and Media at the California Institute of the Arts, Valencia and she is currently on the faculty of the Vermont College of Fine Arts. Dizon holds a BA in English and History of Art from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MFA in Interdisciplinary Studio from the Department of Art at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is completing a Ph.D. in the Department of Rhetoric with designated emphases in Film and Women, Gender, and Sexuality at the University of California, Berkeley. This exhibition at CUE Art Foundation marks Dizon's first solo show in New York.

About CUE:

CUE Art Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit forum for contemporary art and cultural exchange that provides opportunities and resources for under-recognized artists. We value the astonishing diversity of creativity that artists provide and the importance of their activity in the social context of the city.

CUE provides artists, students, scholars and art professionals resources at many stages of their careers and creative lives. Our programs include exhibitions, studio residencies, publications, professional development seminars, educational outreach, symposia, readings, concerts and performances. Since 2002, we have operated from our 4,500 square foot storefront venue in the heart of New York's Chelsea Arts District.

CUE exhibiting artists are chosen by their peers who are themselves selected by a rotating advisory council from across the country. This pluralistic process ensures that CUE consistently offers diverse viewpoints from multiple disciplines of artistic practice.

Simply put, we give artists their CUE to take center stage in the challenging world of art.

Major program support is provided by Accademia Foundation, The Viking Foundation, Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro, The Pollock-Krasner Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, The Jacques & Natasha Gelman Trust, The Greenwich Collection Ltd., The Foundation for Contemporary Arts, The Joan Mitchell Foundation, Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, William Talbot Hillman Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and New York State Council on the Arts (a State Agency).

