

PRESS RELEASE



From the series *Momentum*
Drop-down (detail)
Year 2015
Video HD. Video in two channels for monitors
22 x 28,8 in

Momentum Silvia Rivas

Rolf Art | Buenos Aires, Argentina | 30.10.15 - 08.01.16

ROLF ART is pleased to present Silvia Rivas' solo exhibition entitled "Momentum". The exhibition curated by Valeria González, presents a careful selection of works that reflect the constant concerns over time and the bergsonian concept of *durée*, in which the artist pauses to inquire about the exact moment in which every movement is possible: the decisive moment. Every step forward is a step into the void: the artist shows how a decision can push the body into a space full of potential, something still largely ignored. She chose to stop and stretch that instant before the course of its outcome; to create an allusion –situated and ubiquitous- of the existential crossroads. From October 30th to January 8th, in Posadas 1583, PB "A", Buenos Aires, Argentina.

"Momentum"
Silvia Rivas
30.10.2015 | 08.01.2016
Posadas 1583, PB "A" | C1112ADA
Buenos Aires, Argentina

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MOMENTUM | SILVIA RIVAS

"In vain, we try to control the course of our lives. Maybe, our potential is manifested as an experience, the precise moment just before the outcome, a vertigo condition, the sensation of waking up falling"

Silvia Rivas

The current work of Silvia Rivas has reached a crossroad, a point of convergence; reflections on time that she has been working on since her significant video installation, presented in 2001 at Centro Cultural Recoleta. When at that time, an eternal space was surrounded by an orchestration of synchronicity and divergences; the viewer, fully immersed, was able to feel that experience in a tangible form. Rivas dissembled into multiple layers the sensation of speed, the millenary metaphor of time as water that flows. Nowadays, the artist's research is submerged within the infinitesimal weave of the instant.

"Optical unconscious" is what Walter Benjamin used to describe new possibilities for the naked eye to gain previously unsuspected knowledge, revealed by modern technologies across the mediums of photography and cinema. We are familiar - he said in 1931 - with the multitude of people, but hidden from us is the exact second into which a step begins to unfold. If the painter - he pointed in 1936 - is like a magician who diagnosed watching or palpating a body, the photographer or the cameraman instead becomes the surgeon, penetrating deep into the constructions of fact; or as a psychoanalyst, delving into the language of the self-consciousness, into its mysterious unconscious motor.

If paradigmatically, photography freezes a moment, now Silvia Rivas has utilised video as a media to expand the boundaries of a decisive moment. Every step forward is a step into the void: the artist shows how a decision can push the body into a space full of potential, something still largely ignored. She chose to stop and stretch that instant before the course of its outcome; to create an allusion -situated and ubiquitous- of the existential crossroads, that are deeply inexorable and free.

To communicate to the viewer the intensity and consistence of "momentum" the artist worked with actors and high definition visual technologies. The first artwork shows a small gesture expanding through film movement, put in juxtaposition with a fragile fixity of the same gesture engraved in marble. The sculptural element relates to the act of photography immensely, because, as already noted by Duchamp, impression molds retain a perfect imitation of the original, they are indexical, like a light footprint. The essence of fixing a moment implies the message "that has been" (Barthes), and so every photograph -*thanatography*- performs a function similar to a gravestone.

In the second work, the ability to capture frames of movement allows Rivas some spectral influence, to expand a gesture into multiple possibilities, as if every moment embodies, to its minimum core, a range of *forking paths*.

The third piece is key. Freudian cure aimed to free the individual from the shackles of its own certainties, to allow the subject to let go, and again "fall" into the unknown course of their desire. One and the same *performer* plays a dual action in a specular diptych. Taking into account, that also it is essentially specular unfolding of the Large Glass: they and she, "mar" (sea) and "cielo" (sky), "mar", "cel", the name of the artist who, contrary to the futuristic euphoria for speed, proposed the *ré tard* as a conceptual model. Do not be fooled by dreams of movement, proposed Duchamp, but implement dissection. *Ré tard en verre* (glass delay) or *envers ré tard*: a delay that allows us to spy the other side to motion, the hidden plot of a drive towards a magnet.

These three pieces provide us with a glimpse of the future results of a great *work in progress*, that Silvia Rivas is developing. She is immersed in the flow of time signalling that subjectivity is not constituted, as we believe, through established norms, but in the form of a true "awakening".

Valeria González

Rolf Art, located in Buenos Aires and founded by Florencia Giordana Braun in 2009, focuses on contemporary Latin American visual arts. The gallery features works exploring photographic media and its boundaries. The selection of artists considers pieces with an inextricable union between critical density and aesthetic values, the relationship between formal strategies and conceptual depth is always in conflict. The curatorial profile of the gallery first and foremost challenges the political context and the representation of what is considered a political image within the boundaries of the photographic medium. It also considers the social and economical context of artistic production and understands it as a determining factor for art's interpretation.

We are committed to a select group of contemporary established Latin American artists, promoting them on a national and international basis. We support their artistic production together with editorial and audiovisual projects.

The gallery's mission is to promote the appreciation of contemporary art and to push the boundaries of visual arts.

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