

RYAN LEE

RYAN LEE GALLERY LLC
527 WEST 26TH STREET
NEW YORK NY 10001
212 397 0742
RYANLEEGALLERY.COM



Real Doll, Raquel, 2013

Martín Gutierrez: *Martin(e)*, July 11 – August 16, 2013

RYAN LEE is pleased to present *Martin(e)*, an exhibition by Martín Gutierrez, the first career solo exhibition of the multifaceted artist. For this exhibition, Gutierrez has created a self-aware and psychologically probing body of work that includes performance, photography and video in response to his declaration of personal transformation that upends conventions of race, sexuality, gender, and class.

Gutierrez's chromatically somber videos in three parts, entitled *Martine Pt. 1-3*, explore the subjects of ennui and apathy by interlacing vignettes, which weave in and out of hypnotic, dream-like scenes, with reality, revealing a melancholic quest for survival that draws equivocally from the genres of architecture, history and popular culture. Gutierrez subverts his visible struggle with traditional values in a recognizable, post-apocalyptic world that balances individual concerns against larger social issues.

"I think of my work as documentations of transformation and performance. While gender is undoubtedly always a question in my work, I don't see it as a boundary." -Martín Gutierrez

Included in the exhibition is a series of 16 photographs titled *Real Dolls* where Gutierrez assumes the roles of Ebony, Luxx, Mimi and Raquel, four doll personas he created and performed after researching the Real Doll phenomenon of life-size sex dolls. The compositions are orchestrated to mirror each doll's owner's desires, combining beauty with the bizarre, elegance with the extreme, and camp with the classical as Gutierrez is cast as an artificial female pawn, solitarily confined to domestic complacency. Humor, tragedy and calculation reveal a brutally honest fascination with the tension between gesture, posture and expression while simultaneously infiltrating and destabilizing pristine suburban culture. The overall presentation is surreal and deliberately ambiguous. The retinue of strange characters may be real or simply fantasies depending on the viewer's imagination.

In all of these works, Gutierrez not only stars, but also writes, directs, produces, styles and shoots himself as well as features his own original music, assuming complete control over his work.

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in Berkeley, California to an American mother and Guatemalan father, Martín Gutierrez had a bicoastal upbringing in the Bay Area and central Vermont. With a broad foundation in art, theater, music and dance, Martín pursued fine arts, graduating with honors from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) in 2012 with a BFA in Printmaking. A fluid identity since childhood has allowed Martín to freely explore diverse facets of self. As set designer, makeup artist, costume designer, cameraman and model behind the lens, Martín has creative control and knowledge of every aspect. As part of his practice, he composes and records original music, further articulating his video environments.

Saint Laurent Paris selected his first unreleased single, *Hands Up*, for their Cruise Collection 2012 video editorial. Martín's music has been featured by several other fashion houses including Christian Dior and Acne. His first EP is expected to be released in 2013.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

RYAN LEE was established in 2013 by Mary Ryan and Jeffrey Lee. Located in the Chelsea district of Manhattan, the gallery is home to a dynamic roster of international contemporary artists working in a diverse array of media. Representing both established and emerging artists, RYAN LEE is committed to showing innovative and pioneering exhibitions that represent the spectrum of contemporary art practices, and will also be a platform for many artists' first New York exhibitions.

Martín Gutierrez: *Martin(e)*

July 11 – August 16, 2013

Public Reception: Thursday, July 11, 6-8 pm

Gallery Summer Hours: Monday - Friday, 10-6

For further press inquiries, please contact Joakim Andreasson at info@culture-edit.com or 646-436-2156