

RYAN LEE

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Martine Gutierrez

Martine Part I-IX

January 5 – February 18, 2017

Opening: Thursday, January 5, 6–8PM

RYAN LEE is pleased to announce its presentation of *Martine Part I-IX* (2012–2016), a nine-part video work by the Brooklyn-based performance artist Martine Gutierrez. Using costume, photography and film, Gutierrez produces elaborate narrative scenes that employ pop culture tropes in order to reveal identity—particularly gender identity—as a social construct. In addition to directing, editing, and performing in her video work, often playing multiple roles, Gutierrez scores each film with original music.

Martine Part I-IX is Gutierrez's semi-autobiographical meditation on personal transformation. Begun while she was an undergraduate student at the Rhode Island School of Design, the episodic work follows the eponymous character from Providence to New York via Central America and the Caribbean. As she journeys toward self-discovery, Martine negotiates the permanent and the fleeting—communing with urban architecture and natural elements such as sand, water, and air. As she moves from place to place, Martine attempts to gather, transport, and preserve these untamable elements, connecting her personal quest with larger questions of who we are in the world and the relationship between humans and the planet we live on. Through her interactions with elements that are enduring and timeless yet constantly in flux, Martine attempts to hold on to particular moments and sensations as she continues on her journey toward a future self.

Throughout the exhibition, *Martine Part IV* will be on view in RLWindow, viewable from the High Line at 26th Street. Also concurrently from December 5, 2016 to January 15, 2017, Gutierrez will mount a separate outdoor installation sponsored by the International Studio & Curatorial Program. *JEANS*, a 10 by 22 foot billboard will be installed in the heart of the garment district at 37th Street and 9th Avenue. Gutierrez mimics iconic denim advertising from the 1990s, reappropriating the public gaze by acting as both subject and object. Employing the language of advertising, she confronts the use and misuse of LGBTQ individuals and people of color in the media.

Martine Gutierrez (b. 1989 Berkeley, CA) received her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2012. She draws from eclectic media, acting as subject, artist, and muse. Through performance, photography, and film, she documents her personal transformation by embodying various imagined personas. Gutierrez's recent solo exhibitions include *Martine Gutierrez: True Story* at Boston University Art Gallery and *WE & THEM & ME* at Contemporary Art Museum Raleigh in North Carolina.

On view concurrently is David Schorr: *Flying Carpets* (Jan 5 – Feb 18). Forthcoming exhibitions include May Stevens (Feb 23 – April 8) and Gabriel Lester (April 13 – May 20). For press inquiries, please contact Bridget Casey at bridget@ryanleegallery.com or 212-397-0742.