

## ***Cinema X: I Like to Watch***

**Carlos Aires, Regina Galindo, Bruce LaBruce, Anetta Mona Chisa & Lucia Tkacova, Dani Marti, Erwin Olaf, Steve Reinke & Jessie Mott, Santiago Sierra**

**April 2 -11, 2010**

**Opening reception: April 3, 8 -10 p.m.**

On top of the ruins of a merely biological fact like gender, society has constructed a gigantic symbolic world: sexuality. It's the result of a contradictory and sophisticated mix of physiological structures, social forms, and power plays, which has ended imposing a model based exclusively on monogamy and heterosexual relationships.

Capitalism, with the aid of the state and the church, has traditionally exercised a strong pressure on heterosexual marriage in order to secure the necessary labor forces. But now *sexuality as reproduction* is giving little by little way to *sexuality as desire*, and marriage as a fundamental institution of society is de-institutionalizing itself. Albeit the strong moralist rejection, especially with *neo-con* liberalism (and its "paternalistic" idea of protecting its citizens from sexuality while its television channels paradoxically maintain the population in a high and permanent state of sexual excitement), we are emancipating from an ethics of marriage towards an ethics of sexuality.

Society changes and so do its conventions. In his interesting book *On Seduction* Baudrillard already commented in 1980 that, after the liberation of its discourse, there was nothing so insecure as sex, and that its liberation also meant its indetermination. When there is no lack, no prohibition, and no limits, we lose clear references.

*Cinema X: I Like to Watch* showcases the works of a series of international artists who have surveyed in a fruitful manner the relationship between visual arts and sex, sexuality, and eroticism. Canadian artist **Bruce LaBruce** presents his first porno film shot in Toronto; Australian artist **Dani Marti** explores S&M and webdating; Dutch artist **Erwin Olaf** delves into voyeurism and transvestitism; Czech artists **Anetta Mona Chisa & Lucia Tkacova** recreate a porn film in which one of the artists adopts the classical male posture; Spanish artist **Santiago Sierra** explores the complex dynamics between capitalism and sex; Guatemalan artist **Regina Galindo** puts her own body at risk with vaginal surgery; Spanish artist **Carlos Aires** reveals the viewer's ignorance of a dark room, and the duo of Canadian artist **Steve Reinke** and American artist **Jessie Mott** explore human sexual desires through an animated fable.

Sexual expressions like voyeurism, onanism, S&M, transvestitism or dark rooms are the reflection of our contradictions with regard to sexuality, while they embody the times and society we live in. Perhaps we should ask ourselves if our promiscuity is a defiance of sexual repression or just a submission to its consumerist variant.

Paco Barragán, Exhibition Curator

### **Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art**

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Image credit: Erwin Olaf (top); Carlos Aires (bottom).

