

press release

David Zink Yi. 6 x Yta Moreno

3 April to 29 May 2004

Opening: 2 April 2004, 6 pm

David Zink Yi (born 1973 in Lima, Peru) is presenting his first solo exhibition in Switzerland at Hauser & Wirth Zurich.

The oeuvre of the Berlin-based artist revolves around the theme of cultural identity, drawing a large part of its inspiration from his own experience as the grandson of German and Chinese immigrants to Peru and his own life spanning several cultures.

An earlier work, *La cumbia* (1999), shows two fingers dancing across body landscapes to the sound of cumbia music. In the performative act of the two fingers transformed into legs and the consequent instrumentalisation of the body, the body is abstracted and fragmented into the scene of a process of perception and a search for identity.

The six video projections in his work *6 x Yta Moreno* depict views of a room shot from differing perspectives. On screen is Brazilian musician Yta Moreno in his own sound studio in Vienna. The six projections are accompanied by six corresponding soundtracks.

Yta is singing/imitating six different samba instruments. In every recording, he uses himself for reference, listening via headphones to the vocal bass drum he has recorded previously. This drum, called *zurdo*, provides the basic tempo and rhythm. And in this way he sings a new instrument with each new recording: *chocalho*, *agogô*, *repinique*, *pandero*, *repique* and *cuica* (all except for the *cuica* are percussion instruments).

The viewers can experience the space of the projected image only in fragments: they can see two or three projections showing various perspectives, but never all six projections at once. A momentary impression of unity might come about if the viewers placed themselves at the centre of the installation, where the various sounds and rhythms converge. Thus, music takes on the role of a unifying element at one level, just as the image space only takes shape in the imagination of the viewer piecing it together. With its meticulous orchestration of image and

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sound in space, this installation becomes a very physical and emotional experience.

The individual portrait of Yta the musician at work reveals itself as a metaphor for complex structures of cultural identity, subjective experience and memory. On the analogy of the human ego, subject to constant re-definition and re-positioning within a society and a culture, this complex video installation impressively translates the fragmentation of an image space, a body and a musical tradition while at the same time unifying an emotional experience in a moment and a special kind of music.

Gallery hours: Tue–Wed, Fri 12 noon–6 pm, Thu 12 noon–8 pm, Sat 11 am–4 pm

Forthcoming exhibition at Hauser & Wirth Zürich: Eva Hesse, 12 June to 24 July 2004

Forthcoming exhibition at Hauser & Wirth London: Isa Genzken, 20. April to 22 May 2004