

Marisa Gonzalez

Ellas filipinas

2011

Single-channel HD digital video

53 minutes

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Marisa Gonzalez (Bilbao, Spain, 1945) is an artist whose work incorporates different disciplines—video, photography, music, digital art, and installations—to create her poetic visual language. She graduated in Fine Arts at the University in Madrid, and MFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and BFA at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington DC. In her last 2 years the project “female open space invaders” has taken most of her attention and dedication. Part of this work is now at the international exhibition “Common Ground” curated by David Chipperfield at the Venice Architecture Biennial 2012. Female open space invaders, *Ellas filipinas*, shows the Filipino diaspora in the city of Hong Kong, China, where more than 150.000 women have left their country in search of a better future. They are a community of women working as domestic helpers. They sacrifice their lives to support their families. In their only day off, Sundays, they invade the downtown financial and commercial district, where they transform and occupy the streets. Downtown HK suffer a drastic transformation on Sundays by the invasion of these Filipino women. They transform the commercial and financial downtown, the plazas, and parks, and the emblematic building the HSBC Hong Kong Shanghai bank by Norman Foster, changing the meaning and functions for what were created, where they transport their habits and traditions through leisure, rest, religion and culture. The territory that was created with specific urbanistic use, is rebuild, reoriented, and transformed by them into their small villas, as their own territory. This Project has a large number of photographs and several videos. The 50 minutes video *Ellas filipinas* has been made with their testimonies in Hong Kong and in the Philippines Islands. Two new videos “female open space invaders” 1 & 2 are now been screened at the Glardini, Central Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennial in the Norman Foster room with the model of the HSBC building, and the Andreas Gursky photograph “Hong Kong Bank”. These videos shows how these women convert the public spaces into private and how they communicate each other, rest, laugh, dance, play cards, sing, picnic...and how they invade the HSBC Bank. The video presented in Moving Image shows the way they built their small cardboard *habitaculos* “casitas” to delimitate their territory in the pedestrians walkways that connect the central financial area of the city. This project has also been shown in London, Sao Paulo, Barcelona, and Madrid. A new 26-page photo essay chapter of this work about the Filipino women appears in the book *Critical Cities* vol 3 by Myrdle Court Press, London.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Founded in 1984 in Getxo, Vizcaya, Vanguardia Gallery, moved in 1987 to Mazarredo, 19 Bilbao, named “The art district” since Guggenheim Museum opened in 1997, where it remains to this date. The gallery works with Spanish and international artists, focusing on the latest contemporary art trends, hosting performances, video-installations and cultural activities.

Galería Vanguardia

Ald de Mazarredo 19

48001 Bibao

SPAIN

Contact:

Petra Pérez / Director

T: + 34 94 423 76 91

E: galeriavanguardia@gmail.com

W: www.galeriavanguardia.com