

"(Re) Volver"

PLATAFORMA REVÓLVER Rua da Boavista, 84-3° September 28-November 8



Wangechi Mutu, Some Fruit, 2006.

Curated by Filipa Oliveira, this group show finds inspiration in its unique setting, the attic of an old building in downtown Lisbon that for several years served as an apartment. Raising issues surrounding architectural representation and memory, eight female artists (from Portugal and abroad) present works throughout the space's quarters, from the living room to the restroom. Miriam Backström's photographs of empty dwellings' interiors, along with Angela Ferreira's Die Vlermuis Huis/A Casa Morcego (The Bat House), 2006, a large construction reminiscent of colonial architecture that hangs upside-down from the ceiling, challenge archetypal configurations of the home. Working with the site's particularities, Fernanda Fragateiro's double-mirrored surface covers part of a vestibule connecting the place's interior and exterior. Nostalgia pervades Narelle Jubelin's installation, piles of leftover catalogues on top of a preexisting wooden platform, while Adia Millet's embroidered knives and Mona Hatoum's altered kitchen utensils (such as No Way, 1996) subtly allude to the violence of familial experiences. Susana Mendes Silva's Distúrbio (Disturbance), 2006, offers a poetic reflection on intimacy: In the restroom, strands of brown human hair are suspended 64 3/16 inches from the floor (the artist's height), linking two partitions to create both a physical and a psychological trace. Playing on the genre of the still life, Wangechi Mutu's Some Fruit, 2006, comprises a group of bottles, suspended from the ceiling and the wall, pouring wine onto both the bare floor and plates decorated with bucolic motifs. While "(Re) Volver"—an expression that evokes digging through the past—is a convincing exhibition, a troubling question remains: Does a project that employs only works by female artists to explore the domestic sphere reify the traditional division of labor?

-Miguel Amado

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