

Open Air Prisons

Opening reception: Tuesday September 13, 2016 7:30-10PM

Exhibition dates: September 14-November 6, 2016



Curated by Kelman Duran

Exhibiting artists: Sarah Gail Armstrong, Tasha Bjelic, LeRoy Janis, Hailey Loman, Mireya Lucio, Monica Rodriguez, and Alice Wang

Artist screenings: Megan Daalder, Andrea Franco, Harris Baig, Guy Rusha, Niq Brynolfson, Francisco Janes

Does a railroad never finished by colonial agents in Brazil signify a free-market halt? Does it point to a utopia filled with de-growth and unattainability as opposed to competition and expansion? A win for the forest and the Natives in it who didn't succumb and who threatened to commit mass suicide if the logging continued to face them? Doesn't the body in these circumstances subscribe to a policy of something prison like, or of escaping the speed of currency?

As soon as we step on a reservation we can see there is no difference between the traumatic and the catastrophic, because for populations that live in open air prison zones (Gaza, Indian Reservations) the catastrophe is the everyday. Like Oxana Timofeeva states *"after all isn't capitalism itself a catastrophe? Does it not kill workers? Isn't, finally, the number of the capitalist beast inscribed into the bar-code of every commodity,..."* The res; the massacres, the suicide rate, the frozen bodies; life under the constant watch of the FBI in "third world" conditions with all the ghosts of their pasts walking through creeks and lands filled with uranium. Eva Chaverniasky in dealing with the body and its eternal- or not- relation to the market states *"the framing of self-determination as self-ownership, of rights as property rights, informs the delineation of freedom as the freedom to dispose of one's capacities on the open market."* Since reservations are economically and politically planned to stifle self-determination, what happens is something close an open air prison, "the inorganic body, fully opened to capital" here knowing its position in this prison either resists or becomes fully abstracted.

The works on view in *Open Air Prisons* presented in the LACE Project Room, all reference this idea or theme of an open air prison, and some of the works, provide insight into ways in which specific peoples have tried to combat this type of "imprisonment."

SUPPORT

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