PIA CAMIL
SKINS

Skins reflects upon contemporary society by exploring the intersection of commodification and performance. For this newly commissioned body of work, Camil merges the aesthetics of commerce with that of Frank Stella's iconic Copper Paintings. Stella's works created between 1960 and 1961 call attention to the flat nature of the medium, while breaking with the set parameters of painting through the use of abnormally shaped canvases. Camil recreates Stella's forms out of slat paneling used in merchandising display.

Within stores, slat paneling functions as a skin—covering every architectural surface and rendering it useable. Camil appropriates this material and affixes shelves and hooks upon which ceramic masks sit and cloaks hang. The masks draw inspiration from forms seen in shops created to display jewelry. They are a commentary on the manipulation of the female image in marketing and, in taking on the appearance of masks, they articulate the artifice of advertising.

The centerpiece of the exhibition is a stage made after a Stella painting. This piece invites interaction from the viewer—allowing the viewer to create a persona by wearing the different cloaks placed throughout the exhibition. It is an opportunity to explore the different aspects of our own personality and become part of the exhibition.

Pia Camil was born in 1980 in Mexico City where she continues to live and work. She received her BFA from The Rhode Island School of Design and her MFA from The Slade School of Fine Art. Camil's work is in the permanent collection of La Colección Jumex, la Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros and the Kadist Art Foundation amongst others. Skins is the artist's first museum solo exhibition.