

Queer Thoughts at 80WSE

Luis Miguel Bendaña, with Diamond Stingily in the Stern Windows

On the occasion of the exhibition *Dream of Solentiname* at 80WSE Gallery, NYU (curated by Pablo León de la Barra, with Nicola Lees and Ellesse Bartosik), Queer Thoughts presents an exhibition of new work by Luis Miguel Bendaña, and an installation of new poetry by Diamond Stingily in the Stern Windows (adjacent to Washington Square Park).

For the exhibition at 80WSE, Luis Miguel Bendaña will present a series of new wall works of poured latex on custom machine-knit polyester. Utilizing a hand-operated knitting machine to produce a diaphanous mesh fabric, the artist's pictorial ground is composed of a slinky fishnet knit that is both machined and idiosyncratic. The constrictive rectilinear yardage is made static by the addition of colored liquid latex, permanently expanding the tension of the knit into an irregular form. Occasionally the knit is left untreated and sags and stretches flimsily, recalling a garment or bodily presence, while the turbid clots of latex are a visceral reminder of fetish and flesh. Collage elements culled from the artist's archive of paper scraps are affixed to the surface of the works, in this case ephemera from European gay bars and American Christian propaganda pamphlets.

The strategy of collage is repeated as a curatorial gesture, and also included in the exhibition are two representations of fellow Nicaraguan, Bianca Jagger: A polaroid of Jagger from 1979 taken by Andy Warhol, and a found video from 2017 of Jagger leading a protest in Nicaragua against the impending Canal de Nicaragua, which is currently under construction by the Ortega government.

In the Stern Windows, Diamond Stingily will present a new poem, *Movies Confuse People*.

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Luis Miguel Bendaña (b. 1988) is a Nicaraguan-American artist based in New York, and is a vegetarian. Recent exhibitions include Open Forum, Berlin; What Pipeline, Detroit; Seventeen Gallery, London; Bodega, New York; X Bienal de Nicaragua, Managua; and the Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago. He is a co-director of Queer Thoughts, NY.

Diamond Stingily (b. 1990) is a New York based artist and poet. Recent and forthcoming exhibitions include Queer Thoughts, NY; Ramiken Crucible, Los Angeles; *Trigger: Gender as a Tool and a Weapon* at The New Museum, NY; *2018 Triennial: Songs of Sabotage* at The New Museum, NY; and a solo exhibition at The ICA Miami in 2018.