

TAKEN DOWN

Sunday, March 4th, 12 – 4pm

TAKEN DOWN is a closing performance from current exhibiting artist Kim Ye, corresponding with the deinstallation of the exhibition *body/armor*.

From the artist:

In this durational performance I will hire a white cis male performer to take down the art that was exhibited over the past month. Directing him from behind the camera, my voice instructs him on exactly what to do and how to do it. As I give him specific orders on how to handle my photographs, how to patch the walls, and how to carefully set down each piece, I also begin to extend the reach of my will to his person. Piece by piece, I instruct him to unbutton his shirt, take off his shoes, and remove his clothing--paralleling the increasingly bare walls with his increasingly bare body. Situating myself behind the camera the entire time, I remain conspicuously unseen as the performer becomes more and more exposed.

Audience members will be allowed to watch from strategic peepholes that are cut into tarps, which are blocking the entryways of the gallery. The performance is over once all the art is deinstalled and the performer is completely nude.

This performance engages the concept of self-care by reversing the hegemony of the white male gaze, which is overrepresented in current mainstream culture. As a woman of color whose demographic as an Asian Female is overtly fetishized (especially by straight white men), the absence of my figure from the frame of view places me in the position of director--acting as a kind of voice of God(dess). Representing myself as a creator--rather than an object--of fantasy *TAKEN DOWN* is both a metaphorical as well as literal act of repair and reparation. While an individual fighting for social justice can easily be overwhelmed and discouraged fighting the tides of social injustice, this performance suggests a strategy for moving towards parity that uses one's own desire as a life vest.

The video from this performance will then be edited and included as a piece in my solo exhibition at Visitor Welcome Center that opens on March 17th in Los Angeles.

Kim Ye (b. 1984, Beijing, China) is an interdisciplinary artist whose work incorporates performance, sculpture, video, installation, text, and painting. She received her MFA from UCLA (2012), and BA from Pomona College (2007). Exploring themes of labor, intimacy, taboo, sexuality, and the power exchange between artist and audience, Ye uses the body and its accessories to give form to power as a non-binary force. She has exhibited and performed nationally and

internationally at the Hammer Museum, Getty Center, Moran Bondaroff, Alter Space, Material Art Fair, Visitor Welcome Center, Human Resources, and Pomona College Museum of Art, among others.