

Laura Curry / Artist Statement

Grounded in the traditions of dance and choreography, my projects develop from issues that affect the community where I live and work. This community may be global, localized, political, or gendered, as the space each project occupies includes with it multiple, diverse, socially specific narratives. This practice has led me into inquiries about radical methods of research, social engagement and activism in the public domain. The opportunity to re-invent the iterative process of art making by engaging the social context where the art is conceptualized and produced, captivates me and leads me toward new thinking.

Laura Curry / project statement, Bike Date, Monterrey Mexico

Two women travel the city while discussing their experiences on the road. They are bodies that are in a state of vulnerability in order to point out the disparities present in the road design of cities. Laura Curry invites women to show her around the city by sharing their experiences as they ride their bicycles through the places they select. The meeting places of their appointments are spaces of conflict or tranquility that make manifest the experience of the feminine in the space in which they live.

The artist uses the concept "Canary in the coal mine", which refers to the old practice of miners who take a bird caged inside the mines, to identify how dangerous the air is inside the mine where they work. The individuals identified from the feminine transiting in a bicycle are the canaries in the coalmine of their investigation. The way in which these individuals feel and experience the city exposes the risks of mobility in glocalized communities defined by economic and political structures in South and North America.

In this exhibition, Curry includes narrations of women of different ages, who live in different parts of the city posing an artistic practice that links unconventional methods of research and activism in Monterrey. Her photographs, voices and videos move through the space offering a fragment of the panorama of the alternative road experience in the city.

Dos mujeres que transitan la ciudad mientras dialogan sobre sus experiencias en la carretera, son cuerpos que se sitúan en un estado de vulnerabilidad para señalar las disparidades presentes en el diseño vial de las ciudades. Laura Curry invita a mujeres a enseñarle la ciudad compartiendo sus experiencias mientras transitan en bicicleta por los lugares que ellas seleccionan. Los señalamientos de sus citas resultan espacios de conflicto o de tranquilidad que hacen manifiesto la experiencia de lo femenino en el espacio en el que viven.

La artista utiliza el concepto "*canario en la mina de carbón*", que se refiere a la vieja práctica de los mineros de llevar un pajarito enjaulado al interior de las minas, para identificar qué tan peligroso es el lugar en el que trabajan. Los individuos identificados desde lo femenino transitando en una bicicleta son lo canarios en la mina de carbón de su investigación. La manera como estos individuos sienten y viven la ciudad expone los riesgos de movilidad en comunidades glocalizadas definidas por estructuras económicas y políticas en Sur y Norte América.

En esta muestra, Curry incluye narraciones de mujeres de diversas edades, que viven en distintos lugares de la ciudad planteando una práctica artística que vincula métodos poco convencionales de investigación y activismo en Monterrey. Sus fotografías, voces y videos se desplazan por el espacio ofreciendo un fragmento del panorama de la experiencia vial alternativa en la ciudad.