

## ***Stereomongrel***

by Luis Gispert and Jeffrey Reed

For the grand opening of the Gillman Barracks in Singapore, Michael Janssen Gallery is thrilled to present for the first time in Asia *Stereomongrel* (2005), a film by New York-based artist Luis Gispert, in collaboration with LA-based photographer and music producer Jeffrey Reed.

This twelve-minute film – revolving around the fictitious character of Hortencia, the young daughter of a white Upper East Side art patron socialite and a Dominican-American museum security guard – explores the notions of hybridity and cultural heterogeneity; critically celebrating subcultural phenomena and their stereotypes.

En route to a slow awakening of her own burgeoning psycho-kinetic powers, both prodigy and prodigal daughter, Hortencia embarks on a mystical vision-quest from a disappointing birthday party to the exhibition rooms of the Whitney Museum of American Art, through the gritty streets of New York where she encounters with boom-box wielding cheerleaders, geisha turntablist curators, and an Aztec *Mambo King*.

Shot in super 35mm, *Stereomongrel* can be described as a hyper and marvelously realistic baroque fantasia, which highly choreographed set pieces rely on 3-D and stop-motion animations. It is a saturated aesthetic of multilayered references: music, cinema, art history and pop culture, in which nothing is inviolate, indigenous or sacred; blending the supernatural, Italian B-movie horror films from the 70s and the 80s, psychological thrillers and the unattainable physical and economic ideals found in hip-hop music videos and fashion magazines.

Ultimately, *Stereomongrel* calls into question the superiority of high art along with the museums and the curators that distinguish and elevate it, the value and necessity for protection of subcultural idioms – and the authenticity of the underground communities that perpetuate them.

*Stereomongrel* was exceptionally granted footage permission of the interiors of the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York and premiered at the museum in September 2005.

*Luis Gispert (b.1972) Lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. Gispert has received his Masters of Fine Art from Yale in 2001. He was included in the 2002 "Whitney Biennial". Solo exhibitions include the Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria (2003), Art Pace, San Antonio (2004) and most recently at the Museum of Contemporary Art at Goldman Warehouse, North Miami, Florida (2009).*

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