

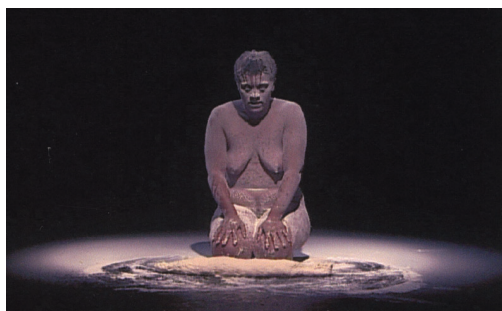
BERNI SEARLE

MAY 20TH - SEPTEMBER 18TH 2011
49 NORD 6 EST - FRAC LORRAINE, METZ



OPENING: THURSDAY MAY 19TH AT 7PM

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PRESS CONFERENCE: THURSDAY MAY 19TH AT 11AM



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Berni Searle works with lens-based media—photography, video, and film—to stage narratives connected to history, memory, and place. While her work is intertwined with South African history that has emerged from a “life apart” (apartheid), her poetic and abstract imagery transcends the specific to address ideas about belonging and displacement in various contexts.

She questions tirelessly the self and the other, examining the elements of her own identity shaped by successive cross-fertilizations: a “composite identity” based on “creolization”—a notion dear to Edouard Glissant’s heart. Begun in the early 1990s, Searle’s work (installations, videos, and photographs) is poetically political. Nourished by personal mythologies, it questions memories and memory (*About to forget*, 2005), underscoring the dynamics of human relations, the dissolution of family ties, and the arbitrary character of racial, religious, and gender categories.

Searle often works with her own body, upon which experiences and memories are inscribed and expressed (*Snow White*, 2001; *Mute*, 2008). Violence and suffering are rarely shown outright. Rather, they burst forth from the sumptuous image whose lyrical and esthetic qualities are imbued with dramatic intensity (*Vapour*, 2004; *Moonlight*, 2010). Without ever slipping into pathos, Berni Searle creates a polysemic, disturbing, intimately personal, and profoundly universal work—an ode to humanity in which everyone is what she or he has built.

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Berni Searle was born in 1964 in Cape Town, South Africa, where she continues to live and work. She graduated from the Cape Town University in 1995. Since 1999, her work has been featured in numerous solo and collective exhibitions in South Africa, the U.S., and Europe, including the Museum of Modern Art and the Venice Biennales of 2001 and 2005.

www.bernisearle.com

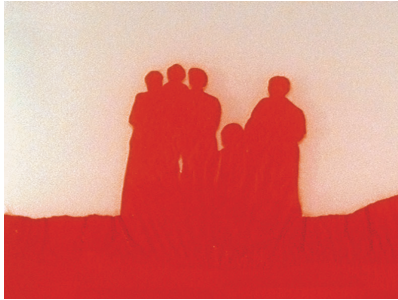
1- Berni Searle, *Snow White*, 2001.
© B. Searle.

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FONDS RÉGIONAL D'ART CONTEMPORAIN
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BERNI SEARLE



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Berni Searle

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First retrospective of the South-African artist in Europe (Belgium, France, and the Netherlands).

Eminently political, the video works of the South-African artist Berni Searle (born in 1964 in Cape Town where she resides) draw on an esthetic of the poetic metaphor. Not directly confrontational, Searle often uses her own body in performative video works. She explores aspects of her heritage and the way in which this intersects with gender, history and memory in order to question the notion of identity and to examine the residual effects of colonialism and apartheid as well as ideas relating to migration, nationalism and xenophobia in various contexts.

EXHIBITION AT THE FRAC

ACCESS:

Admission free

Tuesday-Friday: 2-7pm

Saturday & Sunday: 11am-7pm

Group visits in English

on request

mediation@fraclorraine.org

17.04 - 12.06 2011 // *Berni Searle. Interlaced*

CULTUURCENTRUM BRUGGE (BE)

www.ccbbrugge.be

09.07 - 16.10 2011 // *Berni Searle. Interlaced*

MUSEUM VOOR MODERNE KUNST ARNHEM - MMKA (NL)

www.mmkarnhem.nl

FILM

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On this occasion, Berni Searle has been commissioned to create a new work, shot in Brugges. The triple screen video installation, in which the artist performs with gold leafed hands and black lace, could allude to the dark side of the history of the Belgian Congo, but also expresses a deeper sense of loss while questioning the status quo.

Berni Searle. Interlaced, 2011.

Three channel video projection
High Definition video, 8'30''

Commissioned by Cultuurcentrum Brugge, in conjunction with Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem (MMKA), and 49 Nord 6 Est - FRAC Lorraine

PUBLICATION

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A trilingual catalogue outlines the origins of the film *Interlaced* and inscribes it in the broader context of Berni Searle's work.

Berni Searle. Interlaced

Publisher: MMKA Arnhem

Co-publishers: 49 Nord 6 Est -

Frac Lorraine and

Cultuurcentrum Brugge

Trilingual :

English / French / Dutch

Texts: Mirjam Westen, Julie

McGee, Michel Dewilde

20 €

Available in May

at the FRAC Lorraine

1- Berni Searle, *About to forget*. 2005
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