



Teasers

Tiziana La Melia

Friday, September 8, 8pm - 11pm

With poetry readings at 9pm from Natasha Katedralis, Kiel Torres, & Christian Vistan

Tiziana La Melia was born in Palermo, Sicily and raised on an orchard in Syilx/Okanagan territories. Working across many materials and approaches such as painting, poetry, video, installation, collage, and collaboration. Some exhibitions include *confessions on sparkling hill* at Damien & The Love Guru, (Zurich, 2023); *CU at dreams_comma_delta* (Delta, 2023); *Fly Robin Fly* at Mecenes du Sud (Montpellier, 2021); *7:4* at Unit 17 (Vancouver, 2021); *Comics Trip!* at Collection Lambert (Avignon, 2022); *Global Cows 2020* with Conceptual Fine Arts (Milan, 2020); *Global Cows 2020*, Images Festival, (Toronto, 2021); *Palermo Microonde* at Villa Virtua Masolo (Milan, 2020); *Ozone Gleaners* at Projet Pangee (Montreal, 2020); *St. Agatha's Stink Script*, galerie anne barrault (Paris, 2019); *Rust Flowers* at Grande Prairie Art Gallery (Grande Prairie, 2019); *Garden Gossip* at Walter Philips Gallery (Banff, 2017). La Melia is the author of *The Eyelash and the Monochrome* (Talonbooks, 2018) and has published poetry and criticism in The Capilano Review, Art 21, C Magazine, Montez Press, The Organism for Poetic Research among others.

Natasha Katedralis is an artist living and working on the unceded Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Musqueam territories known as Vancouver. She has shown locally in *Prop* at City Centre Motor Hotel (two-person show with Amanda Crain-Freeland, curated by Felix Rapp, 2022) *Connect Mention Rückenfigur* at Liquidation World (group show curated by Marisa Kriangwiwat Holmes, 2021) and *Split Ends, Cuckoo* which she co-organized with Christian Vistan in her carport while living in Ladysmith, BC in 2019. She is a two-time nominee for *The Lind Prize* (2017, 2022). Recent projects include a capsule fashion collection which was exhibited on the *P.L.U.R.O.M.A. SS23* runway at Liquidation World and an upcoming tabloid magazine collaboration with Tiziana La Melia. Her writing has been published online in Commo (2023).

Kiel Torres is a writer and editor from Vancouver. Her work focuses on performance, poetry, criticism, and correspondence. She is the assistant curator at Western Front, and hosts an occasional reading series at Choklit Park.

Christian Vistan grew up in Bataan, a peninsular province in the Philippines. They currently live on unceded Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh territories. In their artworks, they translate experiences of distance and diaspora into hybrid forms that fold together elements of memory, place, poetry and abstraction. They are particularly interested in thinking about and working with water as a material in their work and in personal, familial, and migrant histories. They make paintings and texts, curate exhibitions and often collaborate with other artists, writers and curators. Recent projects include *dreams comma delta*, a room and DIY gallery space for artist projects and exhibitions that was located inside their family home in Ladner, BC, which they ran and co-curated with artist Aubin Kwon from 2020-23; *from—about*, a solo exhibition at Unit 17; and a new series of projected backdrops produced through an artist residency with The Capilano Review in their new monthly reading series *Dear Friends &*



Tiziana La Melia, *Episodic Teasers From Study La Vita Simple*, Digital Video, 2023

Glint. Hamster. Chaotic fabric of all encapsulation and emulation. A fuzzy membrane, undefined, untameable?. Velour. Velveteen on the outside, velvet on the inside. Rarely crushed. Always crushing. "Helles Bella". Zoomed in surface turned informs. "Baby" the Great Great Great grandmother. Personifies intuition. Visitor. Reads confessions in binder. "Gingham". Symbols of the rurban. "Kitten Healer". Personifies fear of the femme form. Grommets her muses.

The starting point for *Episodic Teasers From Study La Vita Simple* is an adaptation and mash-up of the aesop fable "The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse" with "The Simple Life"—the 2000's reality show that featured Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie (who evoke Marie Antoinette "cosplaying" as milk maids). In it, a hotel heiress and her best friend experimented with "working" in rural America, all the while popularizing the now velour track suits in which they cast themselves from within a kind of dwelling, evoking the plush covers that Walter Benjamin wrote as preserving the impression of every touch, covering slippers, thermometers, cutlery, umbrellas, watches... The smoothness of the sheen of the velour texture of the two-piece sweat set takes on the impression touch, while willfully "signifying the willed erasure" of the history of its becoming. Spun as spellings of emotive intention, Velour and Helles Bella, two city hamsters, together plot and point and parody beyond the valley while still earthly bound to their sensual encounters with real life.

With an all star ensemble cast and crew (only some of which are in attendance for this evening) the teaser, is a fragment to a forthcoming longer film titled *The Simple Life: City Comes to the Country/Country Comes To The City*. The teaser is the anticipated follow-up to the actual video shoot and improvisations that occurred in two parts (September 2021, on Syilx Territory, in Vernon and May of 2022 in Mount Pleasant/downtown Vancouver), captured via the point of view of the limousine window. The teaser shuffles 13 hours of footage shot with Kasper Feyrer on a DV camera into a blooper-esque teaser. The protagonists have taken a foolish leap of imagination, skipping towards the cliffs of realization, eyes on the stars. And just so, when there is an Alpha, a beginning, there will be an Omega. But don't worry tender readers, there is plenty of adventure along the way.

CREDITS/THANK YOU

City Hamsters: James Albers, Kiel Torres, Natasha Katedralis, Rebecca Brewer
Country Mice: Franca La Melia, Martina La Melia, Taro
Country Pup: Camilla Maria Impronta
Confession Booth Reading: Christian Vistan

Writer, Director: Tiziana La Melia
Production and Costume Assistant: Natasha Katedralis
Cinematographer 1: Kasper Feyrer
Cinematographer 2: Tiziana La Melia

BESIDE THE SCENES:

Weekenders: Christian Vistan, Reiko Inouye, Simon Griel
Sound: Amy Kazymierchyk, Hannah Rickards
Production Consultant: Amy Kazymierchyk
Editors: Ellis Sam
Score: Ellis Sam
Script Consultant: Maggie Groat
Production Support: Rebecca Brewer
Caterer: Hannah Rickards

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