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Nothing We Haven't Seen Before

A Thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements
for the degree Master of Fine Arts

in

Visual Arts

by

Artemisa Marie Dolores Heydenreich Clark

Committee in charge:

Professor Lisa Cartwright, Chair
Professor Patrick Anderson
Professor Brian Cross
Professor Ricardo Dominguez
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2015

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The Thesis of Artemisa Marie Dolores Heydenreich Clark is approved, and it is acceptable in quality and form for publication on microfilm and electronically:

Chair

University of California, San Diego

2015

DEDICATION

For Grandpa, Mel, and Nino.

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ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Nothing We Haven't Seen Before

by

Artemisa Marie Dolores Heydenreich Clark

Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts

University of California, San Diego, 2015

Professor Lisa Cartwright, Chair

Nothing We Haven't Seen Before uses the appropriated aesthetics of Félix González-Torres, whose own aesthetics were appropriations of minimalist and conceptual aesthetics, to intersect three occurrences that cannot be remembered by those who experienced them – the death of Ana Mendieta; my own experience being drugged (without my consent or knowledge) and subsequently becoming very lost on-campus; and

the death of Claudia Alvarez whose body was found by UCSD's Birch Aquarium. The intersections of these stories with both themselves and the way in which they are presented levels historical, structural, and personal trauma while reflecting a larger conversation about how trauma is lived with, moved on from, and at the same time continual.

Foreward: A Statement by the Artist as Félix González-Torres, Modified for the Present

INSTALLATION BY [ARTEMISA CLARK]
[May 13 – 15, 2015]

When I was asked to write a short statement about the work in this space I thought it would be a good opportunity to disclose and, in a certain sense, to demystify my approach. I hope that it will guide the viewer and will allow an active participation in the unraveling of the meaning and the purpose of this work. Many may consider this text redundant; an unnecessary intrusion, or even a handicap. It is assumed that the work must “speak for itself,” as if the divine dogma of modernism were able to deliver a clear and universal message to a uniform “family of man.” Others know this is not true – that each of us perceives things according to who and how we are at particular junctures, whose terms are always shifting. Preferably the exhibition gallery will function as an educational device, simple and basic, without the mysteries of the muse, reactivating history to affirm our place in this landscape of [2015].

This work is mostly personal. It is about those very early hours in the morning, while still half asleep, when I tend to visualize information, to see panoramas in which the fictional, the important, the banal, and the historical are collapsed into a single caption. Leaving me anxious and responsible to anchor a logical accompanying image – scanning the TV channels trying to sort out and match sound and sight. This work is about my exclusion from the circle of power where social and cultural values are elaborated and about my rejection of the imposed and established order.

It is a fact that people are discriminated against for being [a woman]. It is a fact that [most Americans profit from the exploitation of brown bodies on both sides of the Mexico-United States Border]. It is a fact that [Apple thinks different] and [California Cheese] is real. It is a fact the color of your skin matters. It is a fact [Beyoncé is a feminist]. It is a fact that [one’s gender, skin color, and socioeconomic status, especially in combination,] can cause an arrest, a beating, [a rape, an erasure], a shooting or a news photograph. Yet it is a fact that [the three stories that reflect this violence], presented as a solitary act of consciousness here in [La Jolla], will not precipitate a similar reaction.

From the first moment of encounter, the four [pieces] in this room will “speak” to everyone. Some will define them as an exercise in [duration],

or some sort of abstraction. Some as four boring [representations of an over-political “statement” by the artist]. A few experts will interpret them as yet another minimalist ecstasy. Now that you’ve read this text, I hope for a different message.

[Ni una más.]

[Artemisa Clark]
[La Jolla 2015]¹

¹ González-Torres, Exhibition Statement.

Introduction: Conflation with and Extraction from Personal Trauma in my Work

The work in this thesis stems directly from a singular night that I experienced during the first of my three years in the Visual Arts Department at UCSD. On March 3, 2013, I was at a friend's friends' band's show at Porter's Pub, a bar and venue on campus. At some point, while those friends were playing, I was handed a drink that I consumed most of. I remember slivers of the subsequent hours-long struggle to walk the formerly incredibly familiar .3 miles to my studio not as something that happened to me, but as something that I either dreamed or watched in a movie. I woke up the next morning assuming that I had gotten too drunk again, this time truly frightening those who most care for me. It was only after discussing the events of that night with those I was remotely in contact with during those lost hours that it became clear that I had consumed something I was unaware of.

I was left with no conscious memory representing this two-hour period. However, my iPhone retained traces of my location, and my state of mind: texts sent to those trying to find me and random photos of the ground shot at various times and places throughout the night. I soon became obsessed with hacking the electronic device I had with me that night, extracting any data I could. While this was an emotionally traumatic event, this personal erasure also clearly fell in line with the systemic/cultural erasures I had been addressing in my work prior to my enrollment at UCSD. I therefore abandoned the project I had been developing that first year in order to create works actively responding to the events of March 3-4. This became *I've Been Trying to Tell You*, my first year

review show.

Unfortunately, choosing to make work about (or even adjacent to) the erasure of that night was met with a much more quotidian version of the same structural violence that allows the three stories at the core of my thesis to occur, in responses to my work by some Visual Arts faculty members and fellow graduate students. While pieces that reflected seemingly remote, structural violence had been well received, work based in closer spatiotemporal proximity to myself, and by extension my audience, I suppose, was responded to by some as though the performance might be therapy. These comments negated my consistently and clearly expressed critical ability. This sentiment also, quite frankly, was clearly based in sexist ideology that posits women (particularly minoritarian women) as either fully or mostly emotional thinkers, with emotions understood to be inherently separate from criticality. That these reactions were dependent upon the knowledge of my personal experience was made even clearer to me as I witnessed other graduate students being encouraged by faculty to engage with personal trauma in their work. This occurred when the student was already leaning toward such engagement, not actively at the behest of faculty, but no accusations similar to those I faced were made.

This lack of support, this misrecognition of my work as therapy, was certainly not expressed by the entirety of the Visual Arts department, and least of all my current committee. Yet my encounter with these kinds of responses forced an additional, unnecessary, and at times seemingly unending burden on me to prove that I was, in fact, OK, and that the work I made after March 3-4 was not somehow solely a reaction to that

night, but was in fact a critical progression of ideas and critical analyses of space, time, and performed memory that was developing into a substantial body of work. This additional burden of reception as denial was, at times, detrimental to my own artistic and academic development. These reactions became internalized. I spent a (relatively) long period convincing myself that I had to make a thesis about something else, despite this line of research nonetheless serving as the material for the bulk of my production over the past three years.²

Of course, this singular event was neither the worst thing that has ever happened to me nor the first time personal trauma has made its way into my work. A concern with trauma was obvious in very early work made during my undergraduate studies at New York University, such as *November 2004* (2007), a performance for video in which I replicate my father's suicide attempt by tying a plastic bag over my head and breathing until I pass out. Explicit trauma, however, is rare in my oeuvre, most pieces focusing instead on repetitive performances of erased or generally ignored ways of performing and re-enacting cultural histories with which I identify. *An Exercise in the Impossible (After Manuel Arechiga)* (2011), for example, is a 2 hour 24 minute-long performance in which I sweep a small area of land that was part of the former Los Angeles community of Chavez Ravine. This action is informed by a May 16, 1959 photograph of resident Manuel Arechiga sweeping the land in front of the tent in which he lived with his wife, Abrana, after their house, along with the houses of hundreds of Mexican-Americans, had

² I believe a large reason for this to be the internalization of external reaction, but I would also be remiss to not note that my line of research is incredibly depressing, which of course adds to an attempt at avoiding it.

been demolished to make way for Dodger Stadium.

This thesis brings together the personal and the cultural/historical, leveling these otherwise oftentimes theoretically separated types of trauma. The negative reactions I received during the formation of this current work reified a generalized view of trauma as exceptionalised. By using the aesthetic logic of Felix Gonzalez-Torres, actively derivative of minimalism and conceptualist logics, to tell three stories of extreme, unknowable violence, I hope to engage with a larger conversation about the process of trauma, about how it is lived with, moved forward with, and experienced.

Her, Her, Me, Us

This specific installation stems from a night in 2013. But the research that explicitly led to this thesis began in the fall of 2003, when I was a student in José Esteban Muñoz's lecture component of the survey course "Art and the World," required of all freshmen at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. It was in one of Muñoz's lectures that I first learned about the death of Ana Mendieta. On September 8, 1985, Ana Mendieta fell out of the 34th floor bedroom window of the apartment she shared with then-husband Carl Andre. She was heard yelling "No" multiple times by a passerby. Andre was arrested and put on trial before a single judge as opposed to a jury. He was found not guilty of her murder, which could either be the truth or the result of egregious errors made by the police in the first hours after Mendieta's death—errors including not photographing the body and allowing both Andre and his lawyer to enter the apartment from which she fell while it was still under investigation as an active crime scene. He has since spoken of that night, but each account he gives is different from the last. Most recently, he said that she slipped while trying to close the window, finally (after years of not) acknowledging that she did indeed yell "No." In order to slip, she would have had to climb a heater that was nearly her own size to stand atop it on level with the rectangular opening 34 stories above ground when she was deathly afraid of heights.

The lecture in which Muñoz told the story of Mendieta's death was the first time I was exposed to the artist's oeuvre, which immediately became central to my own development as an artist. Muñoz's telling of the story hit close to home not only because

I felt a certain kinship with Mendieta herself, both of us Latina artists working with similar ideas and aesthetics, but also because of the spatial proximity of her death. The building from which Mendieta fell, located at 300 Mercer Street at the corner of Broadway and Waverly, was right next to Tisch, the 34th floor viewable from my department on the eighth floor of 721 Broadway and the 24-hour deli on which her body fell—a location often frequented by my classmates and me. It was rare that I passed that building without remembering its gruesome history.

My second year at UCSD began with an installation, *My Darling, Sexy, Beautiful Tropicana*, commemorating the death of Mendieta. On the anniversary of her last night, guests were invited to gather in a space on which the layout of the apartment from which she fell had been taped to the floor. The last movies she watched, *Without Love* (1945) and *Dracula* (1931), were playing while Chinese food and champagne - the last food and drink she consumed - was enjoyed by the attendees. Also present in the space were small pieces that reflected my research into her death, such as a red string the same length as her fall, and a series of images constructed from written descriptions of text-based reactions to her death.

I continued making works in the same vein of historical re-enactment found in *My Darling, Sexy, Beautiful Tropicana* and a number of other works I had made before coming to UCSD. On January 10, 2014, I re-performed Ana Mendieta's *Untitled (Rape Scene)* (1973). In this piece, Mendieta is hogtied, bloodied, and naked from the waist down in her apartment. With her University of Iowa graduate cohort, the performance

served as a response to the recent rape and murder of a female nursing student on that campus. I re-performed this work in my studio with an audience of my graduate-student peers.

On January 13, 2014, the Monday following my re-performance, Claudia Alvarez was found in a ditch behind the UCSD Birch Aquarium. She had been stabbed multiple times in her torso and neck. Alvarez was still alive when discovered, but she died of her wounds at the hospital soon after. No weapon was found. At 9:31 that morning, the UCSD student body received a “UCSD Police Notice” by email stating that “an unidentified female ... sustaining injuries due to unknown circumstances” had been found in a ravine near Birch Aquarium and transported to a hospital.³

On Wednesday, January 15, the UCSD student body received a “Suspicious Death Update,” notifying us that the death of the unidentified woman was no longer being categorized as a possible homicide, but was still labeled “suspicious.”⁴ Alvarez’s identity was released on January 30 – via a number of news sources and not through any direct communication to the students, faculty or staff of UCSD – along with the determination of suicide as an official cause of death. On January 31, on the site of at least one news source, friends of hers began questioning the manner of death ruling, one going so far as to accuse her husband.⁵

³ University of California San Diego Police Department, “[APB-L] UCSD Police Notice.”

⁴ University of California San Diego Police Department. “[APB-L] Suspicious Death Update.”

⁵ Stickney.

My research into this case revealed that very few news websites reported the findings, and of those that did, none questioned anyone who knew her. Despite having a husband and son in the area and friends clearly willing to talk, the only interview done, other than with police or medical examiner representatives, was with Ellen Scott, a volunteer at Birch Aquarium who found it “very shocking of course” and Terry Rothwell, a dog walker who frequents the area. Rothwell was asked if she “was [newly] concerned for her own safety” in the area where Alvarez’s body was found. She said that she did not.⁶

⁶ Ash and Coronel.

Simply a Tragedy

In *meXicana Encounters: The Making of Social Identities on the Borderlands*, Linda Rosa Fregoso describes how at the end of 2001, Patricio Matínez García, governor of Chihuahua, Mexico and member of the corrupt Institutional Revolutionary Party, switched the narrative tactic he used to justify inaction in either the solving or preventing of the 261 rapes and murders of mostly working-class, dark-skinned women in Ciudad Juárez between January 1993 and November 2001. At first favoring outright denial of the murders, once the Mexican state's inaction received national and international attention, García disaggregated these acts of violence from one another in order to "disassociate the cases of the murdered women in Juárez as a phenomenon and reformulate most of these murders as discrete, unrelated cases."⁷ This was done in two ways. First, the victims themselves were blamed, described as partaking in nonnormative sexual behaviors that made them "primarily responsible for the violence enacted against them."⁸ They were deviants whose behaviors did not reflect the moral standards of the general population, and as such their deaths were their own faults instead of reflective of the systemic violence enacted against the bodies of dark-skinned, poor women. Second, the state claimed that only 76 of these 261 murders "exhibited traces of sexual violence or were related as 'multiple homicides.'"⁹ Not only were these deaths the faults of the victims; only 29% of them were indicative of any larger pattern. These two methods of exceptionalization by the state excused the lack of justice for these women; rather than

⁷ Fregoso 5.

⁸ Fregoso 4.

⁹ Fregoso 5.

reflecting national sentiment, the individual, either victim or attacker, contains within him or herself the root cause of the killing. This cause, whatever it may be, is ostensibly dealt with by the act of killing itself. Nothing external to those responsible could have been done to prevent it, and nothing can be done after to reverse its outcome.

In the cases of Alvarez and Mendieta, a similar disaggregation occurs in the determination of their deaths as suicide.¹⁰ Though Emile Durkheim called for a sociological rather than psychological view of suicide in 1897, it remains that suicide is seen as an immoral act, and “we usually regard everything immoral as abnormal,”¹¹ as inexplicable within the realms of quotidian psychological understanding. If the person who chooses to take her own life is responsible for the violence against her own body, it is a reflection of her solitary inner turmoil, not the larger social structures that create an environment that allows for violence against women, whether at the hands of someone else or a violence that might cause self-harm. As Jack S. Hoffinger, Carl Andre’s defense attorney, stated in a 1988 interview with the New York Times, Mendieta’s death, for those who supported Andre, was “simply a tragedy for everyone, for her, her husband, and her family.”¹²

This disaggregation of the deaths of Alvarez and Mendieta is apparent not only in examining at whose hands they were determined to have died, but also in the reportage of

¹⁰ While Mendieta’s cause of death was never stated as such, she was either killed by Andre or killed herself, whether intentionally or accidentally (i.e. slipping off of the radiator). Andre’s defense, in fact, worked very hard to try to prove that Mendieta could have been in a suicidal state.

¹¹ Durkheim 328.

¹² Sullivan.

these stories. Especially in the case of Alvarez, this reflects an inherent bias in who is “imagined as ‘grievable’” in the United States. In *The Cultural Politics of Emotion*, Sara Ahmed describes the “intimate relation” grievability has with “those that are imagined as loveable and liveable in the first place.”¹³ The exclusion of Latinxs¹⁴ from the body politic, from those who can be imagined as someone who “could-have-been me,”¹⁵ began as quickly as a year after the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo,¹⁶ and the effects of this exclusion are felt to this day. After the end of the Mexican-American War, the newly immigrated Anglo majority in Atzlán “reinvent[ed] themselves as ‘native’ by recasting the inhabitants of the former Mexican territory as ‘foreign.’” This was achieved through “a repertoire of racist representational strategies and practices” disseminated through popular culture and used to justify “mob lynching[s] of Mexicans and deportation campaigns.”¹⁷

This began not because the United States was pushing Mexicans out of its borders in the aftermath of the Mexican-American War, defining “surfaces and boundaries that allow[ed the U.S.] to distinguish an inside and an outside”¹⁸; rather, it was because the very Mexicans they fought had permeated these boundaries. A large portion of northern Mexico was annexed to the United States, and all Mexican nationals who called this area

¹³ Ahmed 130.

¹⁴ I am positing a national view of Latinxs as an extension of the history of the U.S.’s view of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans. While there are clear differences in cultures, global location, and relations with the United States, all people of Latin American descent are often clumped together as a universal, brown other.

¹⁵ Ahmed 130.

¹⁶ Officially called “The Treaty of Peace, Friendship, Limits and Settlement between the United States of America and the Mexican Republic,” the signing of this document officially ended the Mexican-American War.

¹⁷ Fregoso 127.

¹⁸ Ahmed 10.

their home were allowed to either relocate to another part of Mexico or remain and become naturalized U.S. citizens. Most took the latter offer, creating a crisis of one of the very foundations of U.S. citizenship at the time: whiteness.¹⁹ These conversions of citizenship meant that the mestizo savages whose land had to be taken from them in order for it to be run properly were now white by law. What was outside was now inside, and the national response was similar to that of a human body when invaded by a virus. Mexican-Americans were culturally, socially and physically fought against in an effort to purge them from the national identity of which they were now a part but certainly not accepted as belonging to.

Fregoso gives evidence for this in the examination of select popular films of the time, and I would like to extend a similar analysis to the media coverage of Alvarez's death, this strategy's continuation far after the 19th and early 20th centuries. Of the twelve news reports on her case – first described as a possible homicide, then a suspicious death – only two were written after the day she died, identifying to the public the victim as “43-year-old Claudia Alvarez-Garcia of San Diego.”²⁰ The first, published by NBC 7 San Diego on January 30, three days after Alvarez's husband identified her body²¹, showed a small image of Garcia, taken from what seems to be a government-issued ID and in which she looks much darker than she appears in images on her Facebook profile, while stating that she was a housekeeper and that the manner of death had not yet been resolved. The second report, published by San Diego's ABC 10 News on May 8, 2014,

¹⁹ United States.

²⁰ Stickney.

²¹ Ramirez 2.

over a month after the release of her official manner of death by the San Diego County Office of the Medical Examiner,²² simply states the fact that Alvarez, who was found near UCSD's Birch Aquarium, "committed suicide, according to a medical examiner's report." It describes that her death had initially been investigated as a homicide due to stab wounds on her neck and torso but gives no logic for the ultimate categorization of the death as a suicide.²³ In comparison to the ten initial reports, which describe the affluent neighborhood in which she was found, who she was found by, and the condition she was in when discovered (Alvarez was alive and later pronounced dead at Scripps Memorial Hospital²⁴), the two follow-ups are dramatically lacking in detail. The initial reports reflect a "could-have-been me"²⁵ sentiment; as her identity is unknown, it's unclear whether or not she was a part of the La Jolla or UCSD communities. Also unknown is her manner of death, which if determined to be a homicide could certainly affect those same communities simply due to spatial proximity. *Is there a murderer on the loose killing women in La Jolla? Killing women at UCSD? Don't worry; the dog walker still feels safe.*²⁶ *You should, too.* Once it is determined that she killed herself, that she was a housekeeper with a Latin American name and features, only one news source feels the need to give the public even a small sense of resolution. Even UCSD's police department, despite having contacted students and workers via emergency email updates about both the initial finding of Alvarez's body and her death no longer being investigated as a homicide, fails to follow up with the determined manner of death or her

²² This information was released on March 4, 2014.

²³ 10News Digital Team

²⁴ Ramirez 2.

²⁵ Ahmed 130.

²⁶ Ash and Coronel.

identity.

Even more troubling than the lack of media coverage are the Facebook comments on ABC 7's late January report. While the strangeness of this case and its seeming lack of transparency is commented upon in a number of articles, this particular group of comments begins as the others but ends with pleas from Alvarez's friends. On January 30, 2014, Facebook user Yessi Saul del Real wrote "Suicide? Please!!!! Investigate the murder of my friends it can't stay like this!!!!"²⁷ On January 31, Velasquez Velasquez ends her comments with "She was murdered!! There is NO way she Would [sic] have committed suicide"²⁸ and Nancy Urias Del Real says "We who know Claudia are certain she would never harm herself. There are a lot of strange things about this case."²⁹ On February 7, JR Rivers comments "I know that her husband killed her ... [sic] because she found out he was having an affair with another woman." While I cannot comment on the attempts of ABC 7 to get in contact with those claiming to know more about her death than was reported, that she left behind a husband and son, details made clear in the comments that might lend to her relatability,³⁰ were never added to the popularly disseminated description of Alvarez, and none of the claims that she was murdered seem to have been followed up on.

²⁷ My translation. Original text: "Suicidio? Porfavor!!!! Investiguen la muerte d mi amiga no piede quedar asi!!! [sic]"

²⁸ Full text: "She was a friend of mine; she was an EXTREMELY nice Christian and Humble woman. This is very sad. She would help anyone that needed help. I am in total shock and Disbelieve that this would happen to her. She was murdered!! There is NO way she Would have committed suicide. She leaves behind her husband and a 20 year old son. [sic]"

²⁹ My translation. Original text: "Los q conocimos a claudia estamos serugos q ella jamas se haria daño hay muchas cosas raras en este caso." It continues: "ojala investiguen y no puede impune la muerta d una gran persona como era claudia <3 [sic]"

³⁰ Of course, there were many other such details unearthed if one did minimal investigative work on Facebook.

JR Rivers' claim that Alvarez's husband killed her is even more unnerving in conjunction with the fact that it was her husband who, in fact, identified her body and helped the medical examiner reach her conclusion of suicide as manner of death. Claudia Alvarez officially died due to metoprolol toxicity, an overdose of a hypertension drug Alvarez's husband claimed she was taking. "Stab wounds of the neck and torso" were listed as contributing factors, but Alvarez's body was also marked by "minor superficial incised wounds ... at the ventral aspect of the left wrist." Alvarez's husband's cooperation with the investigation is described as such:

According to the decedent's husband, he had last seen the decedent alive on 1/12/14. He stated that he was then out all of that day and that night, but he later found two notes written in Spanish, under the headboard of their bed. One was to him, and the other was to their son. He indicated that the decedent was depressed because their son was incarcerated; because their marriage was ending due to the fact that she had cheated on him three times; and because she had just lost a good live-in house-cleaning job. The decedent's husband had reportedly filed a missing person's report upon finding the notes under the headboard. He reported that she had a history of hypertension and diabetes. Law enforcement investigation revealed no evidence of foul play, and suggested that the decedent's wounds were self-inflicted, in an attempt to harm herself.³¹

While I do not claim to know what happened to Claudia Alvarez on the night of her death, the ambiguities surrounding it and its lack of reportage contribute to the purging of Latinxs from the political consciousness through erasure. In this case, a wife and mother, a woman involved heavily in her faith and educated at top universities in Mexico, was described only as a housekeeper. An image that darkened her skin was used as the only photographic representation. Her husband confirmed the suicide, and her husband was (admittedly very informally and without specific evidence) accused of her murder.

³¹ Morhaime 2.

Rather than analyzing the specifics of this case in conjunction with the other two intersected through this thesis, I am presenting all three as a collection of occurrences that have evoked those emotions I consider essential to the formations of the “surfaces and boundaries that allow [me] to distinguish an inside and an outside.”³² This includes, as with all constructions of self and community, violence clearly enacted on both my body and the bodies of others who “could-have-been me.”³³ In presenting this collection of occurrences as I have, I am, as stated by José Muñoz in his analysis of the work of Félix González-Torres, “invoking a disidentity that is predicated on transparency and the everyday instead of the more familiar models of minority identity that invoke exotic colors and rituals.”³⁴ I am also avoiding the tropes of female mourning in the description of traumatic events that replicate the exceptionalization that allows this violence, oftentimes shrouded in ambiguity and omission, to continue.

³² Ahmed 10.

³³ Ahmed 130.

³⁴ Muñoz 167.

Afterward: Continuation of Theorization and Research

This thesis is not the culmination of a project. It is better seen as a beginning. To this end (or rather, this continuation), I will begin studies in the Performance Studies Ph.D. program at Northwestern University this fall. I hope those who read this will revisit my work in a few years to see how it's expanded since the writing of this text.

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Appendix: Timeline of Supplemental Works and Documents

14: Julia the Elder is killed by Tiberius.

June 62: Claudia Octavia is killed by Nero.

65: Poppaee Augusta Sabina is killed by Nero.

May 19, 1536: Anne Boleyn is killed by Henry VIII.

February 13, 1542: Catherine Howard is killed by Henry VIII.

February 2, 1848: The Treaty of Peace, Friendship, Limits and Settlement between the United States of America and the Mexican Republic, commonly known as the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, is signed.

October 8, 1871: Anne Armstrong is killed by Reverend John Selby Watson.

January 1872: John Selby Watson claimed temporary insanity due to the stress of being yelled at by his wife while on trial for her murder. He was found guilty and sentenced to death, but public outcry due to the Reverend's popularity caused the judge to convert the sentence to life imprisonment for the crime of murder due to some "imprecise mental unsoundness."

1904: The first U.S. Border Patrol guards the US-Mexico border to restrict illegal Chinese immigration.

November 20, 1910: The Mexican Revolution begins, causing many Mexicans to flee to the United States. One of these Mexicans is my maternal grandmother.

May 19, 1921: The Emergency Immigration Act of 1921 is signed into law. It serves mainly to restrict the immigration of Eastern and Southern Europeans to the United States. Agricultural corporations successfully oppose efforts to limit the number of immigrants from Latin America. My maternal grandfather immigrates to the U.S. from Mexico soon thereafter.

January 1, 1929: Mexican Repatriation begins in Texas and continues throughout Atzlán until 1937. It is estimated that 2 million Mexican and Mexican-Americans were forcibly relocated to Mexico. It is estimated that 60% of those were American citizens.

April 1, 1930: The U.S. Census revokes the "white" categorization for Mexican-Americans due to protests over a diluted definition of "whiteness." Instead of writing "W" for "White," as Mexican-Americans had done beforehand, they were to write "Mex" for "Mexican."

April 1, 1940: Mexican-Americans are able to, again, mark “W” for “White” in the U.S. Census. The Census Bureau begins tracking the “White population of Spanish mother tongue.”

August 4, 1942: The Mexican Farm Labor Program, commonly known as the Bracero Program, begins. This allows Mexican nationals to work on farms in the U.S. during the wartime labor shortage.

June 3, 1943: The Zoot Suit Riots begin.

September 6, 1951: Joan Vollmer is killed by William S. Burroughs.

May 3, 1954: The Supreme Court rules for the plaintiff in *Hernandez v. Texas*, stating that all racial minorities have equal protection under the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution.

August 11, 1956: Edith Metzger is killed by Jackson Pollock as he commits suicide.

April 1, 1960: The U.S. Census begins tracking “Spanish-surnamed Americans,” including broader communities of Latin American origin.

November 19, 1960: Adele Morales is stabbed by Norman Mailer. She does not press charges.

December 26, 1960: Operation Peter Pan begins, bringing Cuban children to the United States. Ana Mendieta is one of these children.

October 23, 1962: Operation Peter Pan ends.

December 1, 1964: The Mexican Farm Labor Program ends.

November 2, 1966: The Cuban Adjustment Act is signed into law, allowing naturalization for any Cubans who had been in the U.S. for over two years.

April 1, 1970: The U.S. Census receives a record number of “Other Race” selections. The Census Bureau stops tracking the “White population of Spanish mother tongue,” keeping record of “Hispanics” by the following criteria: persons belonging to a household where the head of household is a Spanish speaker; persons with Spanish heritage by birth location or surname; persons who self-identified. From this point on, the following “Other Race” categorizations are considered “White”:

Argentinian*; Bolivian*; Brazilian*; Californio; Central American*; Chicano; Chilean*; Colombian*; Costa Rican*; Cuban (unless specified as Black); Ecuadorian*; Guatemalan*; Hispanic; Latin American*; Latino; Mexican*; Panamanian*; Paraguayan*; Peruvian*; Puerto Rican (unless specified as Black); Salvadoran*; South

American*; Uruguayan*; Venezuelan*.

*Categorized as White unless stated to be Native American.

April 1, 1980: The U.S. Census includes “Hispanic” as an ethnicity.

November 16, 1980: Hélène Rytman is killed by Louis Althusser.

January 23, 1981: Althusser is deemed mentally unfit to stand trial and is committed to a psychiatric hospital for three years.

November 29, 1981: Natalie Wood drowns while on a boat trip with Robert Wagner, Christopher Walken, and Dennis Davern, the boat’s captain. The death is deemed accidental.

July 22, 1982: The Los Angeles City Attorney and the Los Angeles Police Department obtain the first gang injunction against Dogtown, Primera, and 62nd Street East Coast Crips.

September 8, 1985: Ana Mendieta falls out of the window of the apartment she shared with Carl Andre. He is the prime suspect.

October 6, 1985: Artemisa Marie Dolores Heydenreich Clark is born.

November 6, 1986: The Immigration Reform and Control Act is signed into law, making it illegal to knowingly hire or recruit illegal immigrants (a provision that continues to be generally ignored) and allowing the naturalization of illegal immigrants who entered the United States before January 1, 1982, as long as they were not guilty of any crimes; had been in the U.S. before 1982 and remained since; and were able to prove that they were at least minimally knowledgeable about U.S. history, government, and the English language.

February 11, 1988: Carl Andre is found not guilty of the murder of Ana Mendieta.

January 1, 1994: The North American Free Trade Agreement goes into effect.

June 12, 1994: Nicole Brown is killed, along with Ronald L. Goldman. OJ Simpson is the prime suspect.

September 13, 1994: The Violence Against Women act is signed into law.

November 15, 1994: A majority of Californians vote in favor of Proposition 187, also known as the Save Our State (S.O.S.) Initiative, which would prohibit illegal immigrants from using health care, public education, and other state and federal services.

October 3, 1995: OJ Simpson is found not guilty of the murders of Nicole Brown and

Ronald L. Goldman.

January 9, 1996: Félix González-Torres dies.

February 10, 1997: OJ Simpson is found liable for the wrongful deaths of Nicole Brown and Ronald L. Goldman in a civil suit.

November 14, 1997: Proposition 187 is declared unconstitutional in federal court.

May 4, 2001: Bonnie Lee Bakley is killed. Robert Blake is the prime suspect.

January 2, 2003: U.S. Census Bureau releases figures from 2000 Census, showing that Latinos are now the largest minority in the U.S.

March 16, 2005: Robert Blake is found not guilty of the murder of Bonnie Lee Bakley.

April 1, 2005: The Minuteman Project, in which an organization of private individuals monitor illegal crossings of the U.S-Mexico Border, is launched.

October 7, 2005: Apology Act for the 1930s Mexican Repatriation is signed into law. A plaque is installed with said apology, in English and Spanish, at Los Angeles' LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes.

November 18, 2005: Robert Blake is found liable for the wrongful death of Bonnie Lee Bakley in a civil suit.

April 23, 2010: Arizona SB 1070, also named the Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act, which makes it a misdemeanor crime to be in Arizona as an illegal immigrant and requires state law enforcement officers to check a person's immigration status if there is reasonable suspicion that that person is in the United States illegally. It additionally enforced penalties on those sheltering, hiding, or employing illegal immigrants.

December 31, 2010: Arizona's House Bill 2281 is enacted, making illegal the teaching of any Ethnic Studies courses in high school. This was written explicitly to target the Chicano Studies program in the Tucson Unified School District.

July 13, 2011: The body of Rebecca Zahau is found hanging from the balcony of the Spreckels Beach House in Coronado, California. There are no suspects.

September 2, 2011: Rebecca Zahau's death is deemed a suicide.

November 17, 2011: The investigation surrounding Natalie Wood's death is reopened when the captain admits to having lied to the police during the initial investigation about Robert Wagner's involvement.

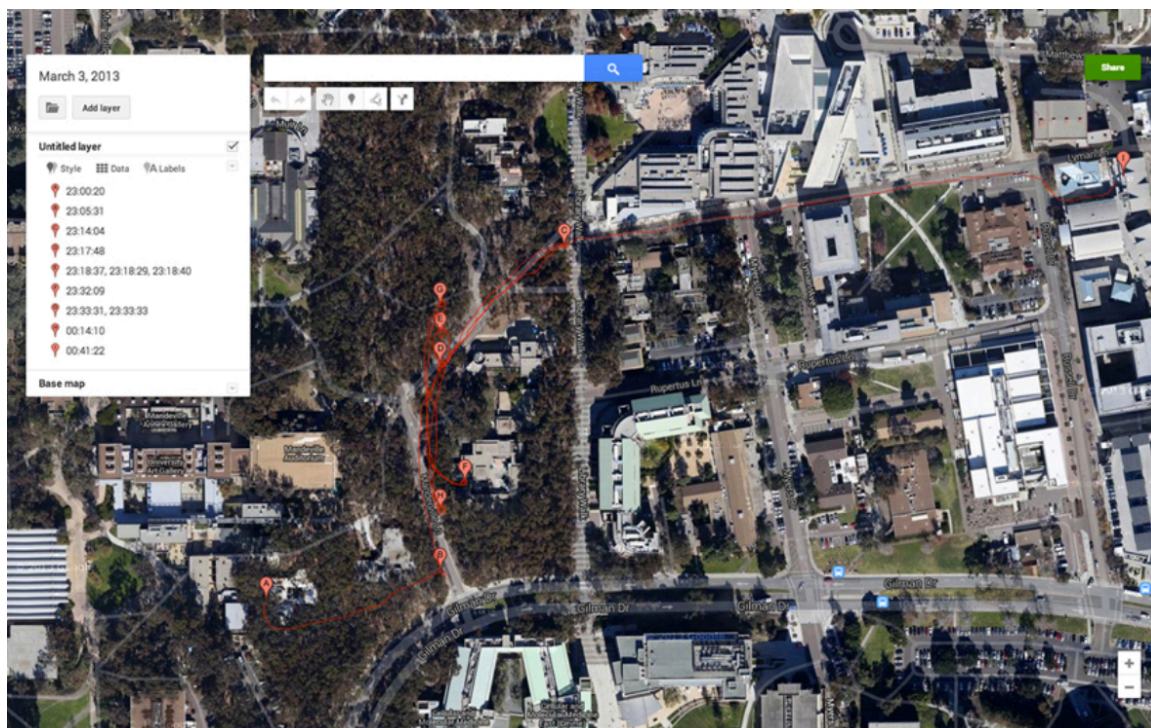
June 25, 2012: The Supreme Court rules in *Arizona v. United States*, stating that the majority of Arizona SB 1070 usurps federal law. The portion of the bill allowing state law officers to check a person's immigration status is partially left intact; the person whose immigration status is in question must have been already stopped for some other infraction.

July 8, 2012: Natalie Wood's official cause of death is changed from "accidental drowning" to "drowning and other undetermined factors."

September 24, 2012: My first year at UCSD's Department of Visual Arts begins.

February 14, 2013: Reeva Steenkamp is killed by Oscar Pistorius. March 7, 2013: The Violence Against Women Act is re-signed into law, extending the protection to victims in same-sex relationships, illegal immigrants, and Native Americans living on reservations.

March 3, 2013: I am drugged backstage at a show at Porter's Pub, UCSD.



384073220 I need help ... 384073294 What are you trying to do gurll ... 384073321 Is that a DVD player ... 384073632 (IMG_3307) ... 384074044 (IMG_3308) ... 384074266 (IMG_3309) ... 384074317 (IMG_3310) ... 384074319 (IMG_3311) ... 384074320 (IMG_3312) ... 384075209 (IMG_3313) ... 384075211 (IMG_3314) ... 384076160 If you can't explain over the phone can you text me please? I'm really worried ... 384076452 Hello? ... 384076486 I don't know sheds I am ... 384076517 Could you get a hold of Melinda? ... 384076538 I can't ... 384076543 Why not? ... 384076544 Is she not picking up? ... 384076593 You need to call Mikey babe. Please call him. ... 384076672 Babe. What's going on? Are you on campus? What's around you? Do you know how you got there? ... 384076773 Hello? ... 384077544 I'm calling Mikey babe ... 384077568 He can look for you You need to call him right now ... 384077576 I don't know whee I Amp ... 384077650 (IMG_3316) ... 384077687 Zola do k feel Jim how to ff hedge? ... 384077824 Mikey's going to call you right now ... 384078249 I'm at Gilman! ... 384078464 Did you let Mikey know where you are? Is it okay for me to call you? I want you to stay on the phone with me til he gets there ... 384078520 I'll just for to sleep jeep ... 384078784 I be there in 10 ... 384078848 Call me as soon as you're off the phone with Mikey ... 384078880 K, I'll be at my studio. P ... 384078902 I'm ok! ... 384078916 Dude. You did NOT sound okay ... 384078951 You do that and I'm going to freak out ... 384078976 I know, I didn't mean it like that Well you need to call me as soon as Mikey picks you up. Because I need the reassurance Please ... 384079097 You have no idea the shit that went through my brain when you called. So you need to let Mikey pick you up, call me as soon as you're in the car with him, and then go home with him. ... 384079197 And you need to do this for me or I'm going down there ... 384079282 I'm at my studio. I'll text you when Mikey's here. ... 384079321 He's almost there ... 384079360 Do you see him? ... 384079610 I'm w Mikey

May 30, 2013: Opening of *I've Been Trying to Tell You*, my first year review show. Pendergrast Gallery, UCSD. This show includes the following works:

Forward Motion (It's a Wall)

2-channel video projected into corner, dimensions variable.

TRT: 00:20:00 looped. Color, sound.

By walking into the walls of an all-white gallery space, the body of the artist is used to recontextualize in real life the common video game glitch of walking into walls. The original footage is 5 minutes, which plays in full at first, followed by harsh cuts that further replicate video and computer game aesthetics.

How-To:

Spotlight, instructions, dimensions variable. Also shown in 2015 at *Cognitive Camouflage*, A Ship in the Woods, Del Mar, CA.

This work directs the viewer to re-perform an old piece. The text invites the viewer to take off his/her clothes, sit in the lit corner, lean against the wall, and put on the mask. The viewer is then instructed to consider a number of questions, all of which have been blacked out. Once the viewer has come to a conclusion (or not), gotten cold, become bored, or encountered any other reason for ending this exercise, (s)he is free to stand, place the mask back on the wall, and get dressed.

I've Been Working on a Piece

72 x 36 in. engraved glass, spotlight, dimensions variable.

The text on this piece begins "I've been working on a piece about being roofied." It weaves in and out of the difficulty of making this hypothetical work, and stories about hauntings from my child, most of which have to do with either ghosts or therapy. As the text progresses and the shadow against the wall behind it fades, it becomes more difficult to read, causing the viewer to weave in and out of these recollections explicitly about memories both difficult and impossible to remember.

Only in Dreams

Website, B/W, silent.

A program that creates randomly generated sentences comprised of the results of filtering what I remember from a night of being drugged by someone else through an online dream interpreter. All interpretations were altered slightly to fit a three-sectioned statement beginning with "You." Each section was divided into three arrays from which a program randomly combined them every 8 seconds.

June 14, 2013: My first year at UCSD's Department of Visual Arts ends.



```

<script type="text/javascript">
var i,
first = ["You"];
second = ["are searching through", "are indecisive about", "are
aware of", "are connected to", "have hidden", "have hidden", "are being
held back by", "are being held back by", "are being held back by",
"need to reconsider", "have lost faith in", "need to build a new 'self'
for", "are experiencing", "are experiencing", "are feeling a lack of",
"are resisting", "are asking yourself to embrace", "are asking yourself
to remember", "are confused about", "are feeling conflicted about",
"are lacking", "have", "have", "have", "have", "are acting out", "are
seeking", "are seeking", "have negative repressed feelings about",
"need to examine", "need to deal with", "have internalized", "are
stopping yourself from", "have no honor in relation to", "have no
commitment in relation to", "have no morality in relation to", "are
about to discover", "are about to undertake", "are trying to avoid",
"are not facing", "have issues with", "have issues with", "have", "are
thinking about", "are scared of not being able to deal with", "are not
able to deal with", "are destroying"];
third = ["your unconscious for a better understanding of yourself.",
"your future.", "your many aspects.", "your environment.", "desires.",
"potential.", "something.", "fear.", "anxiety.", "the direction you're
headed.", "yourself.", "a major transition coming into your life.",
"self-doubt in your waking life.", "feelings of incompetence in your
waking life.", "control.", "change.", "change.", "'success comes in
small steps.'", "something.", "something.",
"a clear direction.", "low self-esteem.", "feelings of
inadequacy.", "feelings about your partner.", "insights into your own
and his behavior.", "feelings you don't normally express.", "power.",
"pleasure.", "something you did or didn't do.", "these feelings in
order to gain a proper perspective and move forward in life.", "these
feelings in order to gain a proper perspective and move forward in
life.", "some fear.", "moving forward.", "authority.", "authority.",
"authority.", "something from your unconscious.", "a new role in your
life.", "an issue.", "your fears.", "comparison.", "power.",
"prowess.", "penises.", "the situations that you are facing in your
life.", "your own emotions.", "your relationships."];
var rand1 = [Math.floor ( Math.random() * first.length)];
var rand2 = [Math.floor ( Math.random() * second.length)];
var rand3 = [Math.floor ( Math.random() * third.length)];
document.write(first[rand1] + " " + second[rand2] + " " +
third[rand3]);
-->
</script>

```

July 15, 2013: Rebecca Zahau's family files wrongful death civil suit against Dina Shacknai, ex-wife of Zahau's boyfriend during the time of her death; Nina Romano, Dina Shacknai's twin sister; and Adam Shacknai, Zahau's ex-boyfriend's brother.

September 7, 2013: *My Darling, Sexy, Beautiful Tropicanita*
Installation. VAF Graduate Gallery, UCSD.

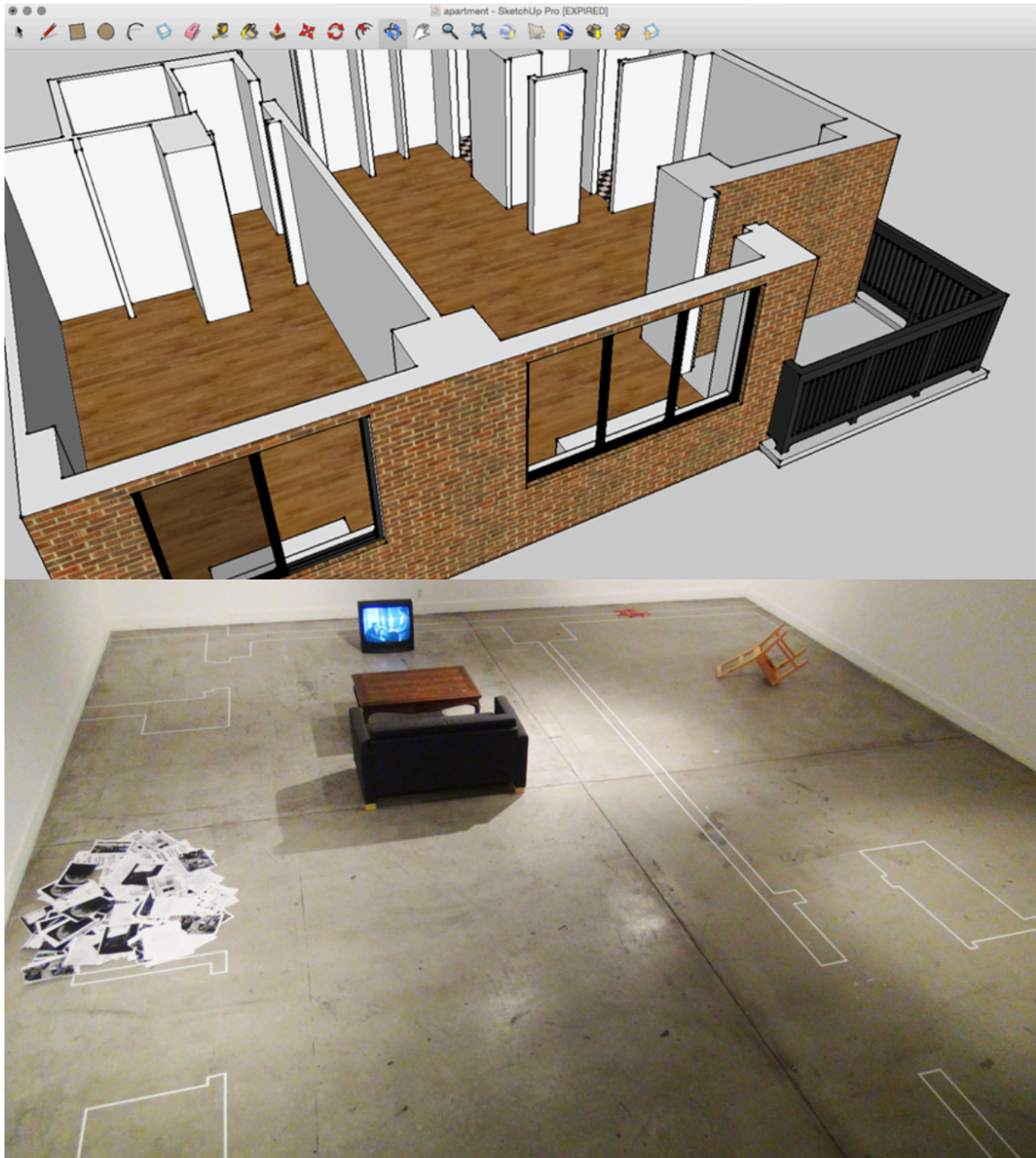
On the anniversary of the last night of Ana Mendieta, guests were invited to gather in a space on which the layout of the apartment from which she fell had been taped to the floor. The last movies she watched, *Without Love* and *Dracula*, were playing while Chinese food and champagne - the last food and drink she consumed - was enjoyed by the attendees.

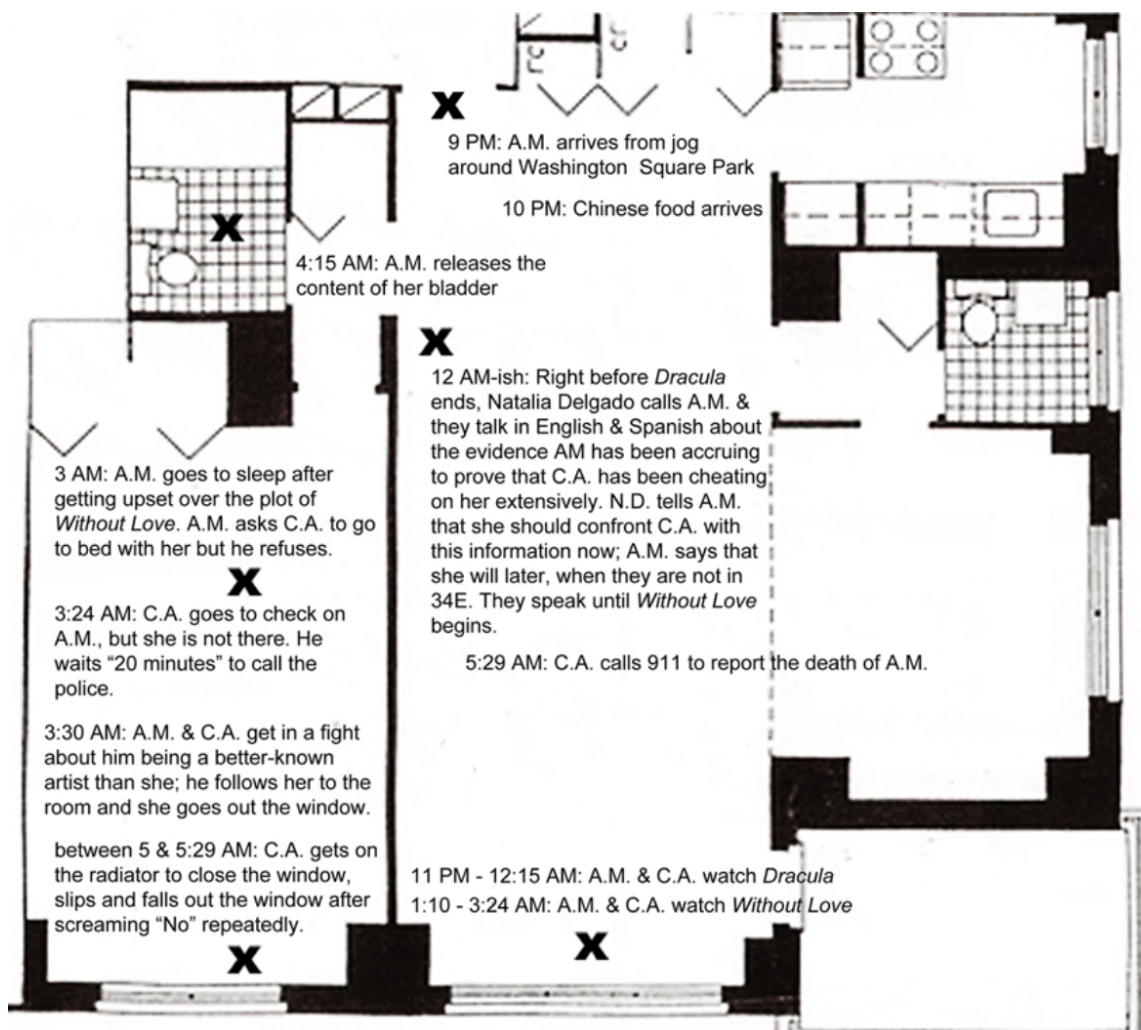
p. 33

3D model of Carl Andre's apartment, with the
window out of which Mendieta fell on the left;
Installation view of *My Darling, Sexy, Beautiful*
Tropicanita

pp. 34 - 35

Selection of research-based ephemera printed for *My*
Darling, Sexy, Beautiful Tropicanita





ANA MENDIETA

**Suicide?
Accident?
Murder?**

**Anyone With
Information Please Call
(212) 335-8900**

September 23, 2013: My second year at UCSD's Department of Visual Arts begins.

January 10, 2014: Re-performance of Ana Mendieta's *Untitled (Rape Scene)* (1973) Performance. Pendergrast Gallery, UCSD. (Documentation by Heidi Kayser.)

January 13, 2014: Just after 7 AM, Claudia Alvarez is found in a ravine near Birch Aquarium, UCSD. She dies from her wounds soon after.

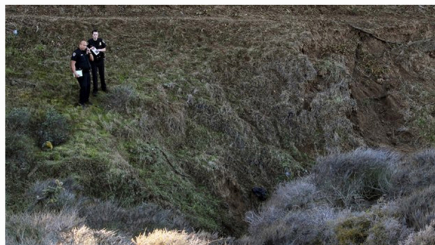
p. 37
 Re-performance of Ana Mendieta's *Untitled (Rape Scene)*
 pp. 38 - 46
 Screenshots of the coverage of the death of Claudia Alvarez and the notifications UCSD students received about the incident. Arranged in order of initial publishing date and time. Websites accessed 04/04/2015.



Woman's death in canyon called 'suspicious'

By **Debbi Baker** 8:07 A.M. JAN. 13, 2014 Updated 10:46 A.M. JAN. 14, 2014

PRINT COMMENTS



Police investigate the scene where an injured woman was found early Monday in a ravine near the Birch Aquarium. She was found by a landscaping crew and then pronounced dead shortly afterwards at a nearby hospital. — John Gibbons / U-T San Diego

SAN DIEGO — The death of a woman whose body was found with multiple stab wounds in a canyon near the Birch Aquarium Monday morning is not being investigated as a homicide, San Diego police said.

Authorities were called to Downwind Way near Expedition Drive in La Jolla about 7:15 a.m. after landscapers found the woman lying in a ditch at the foot of a canyon on the University of California San Diego property, police Lt. Jorge Duran said.

Detectives initially thought the woman's death might be a homicide, but by Monday afternoon they had classified it as a suspicious death, Duran said.

The unconscious woman, believed to be in her 30s, was found about 10 feet down a slope behind a building belonging to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

She was taken to a hospital where she died just after 8 a.m., Duran said.

Investigators do not know how long the woman had been in the canyon nor did they know if she had been stabbed there.

She did not have identification on her but did have some belongings, including a bag, that police had not yet searched. The woman was wearing street clothes, Duran said.

Police roped off a wide area of the canyon for the investigation.

University officials notified students about the incident, Duran said.

Anyone with information about the woman's death is asked to call police at (619) 531-2295 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477 where tipsters may remain anonymous.

Staff writer **Lyndsay Winkley** contributed to this report.

4 COMMENTS

BE RELEVANT, RESPECTFUL, HONEST, DISCREET AND RESPONSIBLE. [COMMENTING RULES](#)

Add a comment...
Also post on Facebook Posting as Artemisa Clark Comment

Brian Lippe - ★ Top Commenter - US Navy Basic Underwater Demolition SEAL Training
Reminds me of the Shakhai Coronado mansion "suicide"...hands and feet tied bare naked hanging from a balcony...Police "It's a suicide!" Multiple stab wounds...hmm that's suspicious!
Reply · Like · Follow Post · January 13, 2014 at 5:53pm

Gail Anderson - ★ Top Commenter
Well it's either homicide or suicide. That would really be "suspicious" if she stabbed herself repeatedly creating "multiple stab wounds" then layed down to die. But, I guess the police have to look at all possibilities. For whatever reason she had multiple stab wounds, may she RIP.
Reply · Like · Follow Post · January 13, 2014 at 5:46pm

Eugene Kuznetsov - ★ Top Commenter - Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology
Dr. Ben Sobel: I thought you were in prison?

Jelly: It would appear not.
Dr. Ben Sobel: How'd you get out?
Jelly: I had a new trial. Turns out that the evidence in the first trial was tainted.
Dr. Ben Sobel: O, I see
Jelly: Anyway, two of the witnesses decided not to testify and the third guy, well, he committed suicide.
Dr. Ben Sobel: How?
Jelly: He stabbed himself in the back four times and threw himself off a bridge. ...
See More
Reply · Like · 2 · Follow Post · January 13, 2014 at 5:16pm

Death of woman found with stab wounds near Birch Aquarium no longer believed to be homicide

BY: **Marie Coronel, Allison Ash**
POSTED: 8:21 AM, Jan 13, 2014
UPDATED: 7:00 PM, Jan 13, 2014



Authorities say a woman who died after falling off a slope behind the Birch Aquarium in La Jolla was found suffering from stab wounds.

VIDEO BY KGTV

-HIDE CAPTION

A A A 84 SHARES

SHARE ARTICLE



LA JOLLA, Calif. - San Diego police are no longer calling the death of a woman, found covered in stab wounds at the base of a ravine near Birch Aquarium in La Jolla, a homicide.

SDPD Lt. Jorge Duran told 10News based on evidence found at the scene, investigators now are referring to the case as a "suspicious death." Police will not reveal what that evidence is.

Landscapers discovered the woman behind a shed near the Scripps Oceanographic Institution at about 7:15 a.m. Monday.

One landscaper said he could not even tell if the woman was alive or dead. Police said the victim was found with multiple stab wounds.

According to officers, CPR was performed on the gravely injured woman at the scene. She was taken to Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, where she was pronounced dead just after 8 a.m.

The woman, described as a heavy-set Hispanic in her 30s, had a jacket and purse with her, but carried no identification. No missing persons reports match her description, police said.

A large area of the canyon was cordoned off by police as they searched for clues.

"This is very shocking, of course," said Ellen Scott, a volunteer at Birch Aquarium.


Scott regularly walks past the area where the woman was found, but said she was not concerned for her own safety because she stays on the sidewalk, which is well-lit.

Dog walker Terry Rothwell said she feels protected by the more than half-dozen animals by her side, but does not recommend people ever go in the canyons near UC San Diego alone.


"I have walked that canyon before and there are a lot of transients up in there," said Rothwell, who urged others to always be aware of their surroundings.

Police hope to identify the dead woman through fingerprint evidence.

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LISTEN ONLINE

Police investigate woman's death near Birch Aquarium


Posted: Jan 13, 2014 8:57 AM PST
Updated: Jan 13, 2014 8:25 PM PST

Video Report By Jeff Zevely, Reporter [Connect](#)




TOP STORY AT 5:00
WOMAN FOUND STABBED TO DEATH NEAR BIRCH AQUARIUM
CYMER 0:00

5:01 79° CBS8.COM



Woman found stabbed to death near Birch Aquarium


02:26



Woman found stabbed in canyon dies

02:07

◀ PREVIOUS 1 | 2 NEXT ▶



SAN DIEGO (CNS/CBS 8) - A woman was found mortally wounded with apparent stab injuries Monday in a ravine near the Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

A landscaping crew found the unidentified victim, who appeared to be in her 30s, off the 2300 block of Expedition Way shortly after 7 a.m., according to San Diego police. She died at Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla about an hour later.

The victim did not appear to have been homeless, homicide Lt. Jorge Duran told reporters.

"We're still early on in the investigation trying to determine that, but from the first glance, it doesn't appear that she was homeless," he said.

Monday afternoon, CBS News 8 learned the death was possibly a suicide.

"We have downgraded the investigation to a suspicious death and we are not ruling out the possibility of a suicide," Duran said.

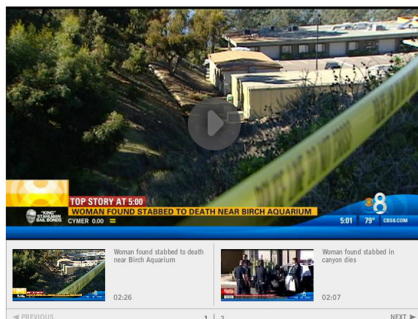
The victim's identity has not been released.



Police investigate woman's death near Birch Aquarium

Posted: Jan 13, 2014 5:57 AM PST
Updated: Jan 13, 2014 8:25 PM PST

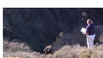
Video Report By Jeff Zevely, Reporter [Connect](#)



Woman found stabbed to death near Birch Aquarium
02:26



Woman found stabbed in canyon dies
02:07



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14 comments [Add a comment](#)



Christine Mann · [★ Top Commenter](#)

LOTS of very weird unexplained deaths in the last two months. I do not understand why people blindly trust authorities here. I mean look at the poor family of Rebecca Zahau who had to file a lawsuit against the sheriff just to get records on HOW their daughter died in an OBVIOUS homicide. They said that was suicide too. Let's see the ones I know of...about December 5th we had man pushed off bridge and man found floating in river (neither ID released as of yet), same time Rocky Neptune is murdered in TJ (in the midst of writing a bombshell book about SO corruption BTW), now girl found stabbed to death in bushes...To me I always look at what is missing from the story and each of these stories has very bizarre missing elements.

Reply · Like · Follow Post · January 15, 2014 at 5:44pm



Christine Mann · [★ Top Commenter](#)

"no weapon was found", so the woman stabbed herself multiple times, then hid the knife then bled to death....hmmmmmm....story also said she wasn't homeless which means they should have an ID by now.

Reply · Like · Follow Post · January 15, 2014 at 5:42pm



Diana Mendoza · [★ Top Commenter](#)

Well I guess questioned answered, no fence can save you from being stabbed, however I imagine that path will be less traveled. So Sad.

Reply · Like · Follow Post · January 13, 2014 at 5:53pm



Samblin Woodman Anton · [★ Top Commenter](#) · San Diego State University

Why the emphasis on her housing status?

Reply · Like · [★ 2](#) · Follow Post · January 13, 2014 at 4:13pm



Sasha Peter Carter

Short answer (or more precisely short educated guess): that part of campus has a number of transient campsites.

Reply · Like · [★ 1](#) · January 14, 2014 at 12:27pm



Sue Hudson · [★ Top Commenter](#) · UW Madison

Sasha Peter Carter: housing status is not necessary in a story such as this. Is the death of a homeless person less important than one who has a home? This info does not ADD to the story.

Reply · Like · [★ 1](#) · January 15, 2014 at 10:28am



Sasha Peter Carter

With regards to a homeless person being no less important than a person who has a home: I'm inclined to agree with you. As for this info not adding to the story: I disagree. Here's why: if it was a resident of one of transient camps, then the circumstances under which this unfortunate person might have arrived at the bottom of the ravine would be very different than those if they live elsewhere.

Reply · Like · [★ 1](#) · January 15, 2014 at 10:56am



Larb McKenzie · [★ Top Commenter](#) · San Diego, California

Some lousy news -- very sorry to hear this. My condolences to the family.

Reply · Like · [★ 4](#) · Follow Post · January 13, 2014 at 10:36am



Diane Howard · [★ Top Commenter](#) · Service of Process Administration at Ace Attorney Service

Wow, how odd there would be this one today and the one yesterday. So sad and sorry for the victim(s).

Reply · Like · Follow Post · January 13, 2014 at 10:03am



Diana Mendoza · [★ Top Commenter](#)

If this is a commonly used pathway, why are there no fences to prevent such a fall?

Reply · Like · Follow Post · January 13, 2014 at 9:47am



Amy Migliori · Associate Staff Scientist at BASF

It's not an official pathway, more of a cut-through.

Reply · Like · [★ 1](#) · January 13, 2014 at 10:55am



Denise Nanos · [★ Top Commenter](#) · San Diego, California

Stab wound doesn't = fall.

Reply · Like · [★ 4](#) · January 13, 2014 at 3:16pm



Woman found behind Birch Aquarium dies

POSTED 9:00 AM, JANUARY 13, 2014, BY [BOB PONTING](#)

[TWITTER](#) [FACEBOOK](#) [GOOGLE](#) [PINTEREST](#) [LINKEDIN](#) [EMAIL](#)

SAN DIEGO — A woman found in canyon behind

Birch Aquarium Monday morning died a short time later at the hospital, police said.

A passerby discovered the mortally injured woman behind the aquarium near Downwind Drive and Expedition, San Diego police Detective Gary Hassen said.

The woman was taken to Scripps La Jolla Hospital, where she died, Hassen said.

San Diego and University of California police were investigating.

No other information was immediately available. This story will be updated as more details become available.

FILED IN: [NEWS](#)

UCSD Police Notice

To: apb-l@ucsd.edu

Reply-To: UCSD Police Notice

[APB-L] UCSD Police Notice

January 13, 2014 at 9:31 AM

UP

UCSD Community,
At 7:30 A.M. this morning police responded to a call of an unidentified female adult found in the ravine near Birch Aquarium. The female had injuries due to unknown circumstances and was transported to the hospital. San Diego Police Department is investigating. Anyone having information should contact SDPD at (619) 531-2000.

Thank you, Triton Alert

NEWS

UPDATED: Police not classifying stabbing death near Birch Aquarium as a homicide

By Pat Sherman 9:46 a.m. Jan. 13, 2014

Print Comments



Police block an entrance to the crime scene off La Jolla Shores Drive Monday morning. Photo by Ashley Mackin



Police block an entrance to the crime scene off La Jolla Shores Drive Monday morning. Photo by Ashley Mackin

ADDENDUM:

Police have identified the woman as Claudia Alvarez of San Diego. She was not homeless, as early reports suggested. Lt. Kevin Mayer said police determined the cause of death was not a homicide.

The death of a woman who was found with multiple stab wounds in a ravine near Birch Aquarium Monday morning, Jan. 13, is not being investigated as a homicide, San Diego Police said.

Authorities were called to Downwind Way near Expedition Drive in La Jolla about 7:15 a.m. after landscapers found the woman lying in a ditch at the foot of a canyon on the University of California San Diego property, police Lt. Jorge Duran said.

Detectives initially thought the death might be a homicide, but by Monday afternoon they had classified it as a suspicious death, Duran said.

The unconscious woman, believed to be in her 30s, was found about 10 feet down a slope behind a building belonging to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

She died at Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla just after 8 a.m. Duran said.

—U-T San Diego

NEWS - LOCAL

Woman Found Stabbed, Unresponsive Near Birch Aquarium: PD

By Joe Young and Sherene Tagharobi

View Comments (20) | Email | Print



NBC 7's Sherene Tagharobi reports from Birch Aquarium in La Jolla where a woman was found stabbed and unresponsive early Monday. (Published Monday, Jan. 13, 2014)

Updated at 4:07 PM PDT on Monday, Jan. 13, 2014

San Diego police are investigating the death of a woman who was reportedly found stabbed in a ravine near the Birch Aquarium at Scripps in La Jolla on Monday morning.

It was originally classified as a homicide, but police are now calling it a suspicious death and saying suicide has not been ruled out.



NBC 7's Sherene Tagharobi reports from Birch Aquarium in La Jolla where a woman was found stabbed and unresponsive early Monday. (Published Monday, Jan. 13, 2014)

According to police, groundkeepers found the woman in a ravine behind the aquarium, which is located at 2300 Expedition Way. At about 7:17 a.m. the worker's supervisor contacted police.

Once on scene, authorities reportedly discovered the woman had multiple stab wounds to her body.

Although she was still alive, the woman was unresponsive and medical crews transported her to Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, where she later died, according to police.

Police describe the woman as being in her 30s and wearing street clothes at the time she was found.

Authorities said the woman had no identification on her and there was no indication whether she was a student, employee, or homeless.

Investigators at the scene reported finding some property that has yet to be evaluated.

There is no sidewalk in the area where the woman was found, but authorities said there was a foot path near where her body was discovered.

Because of the rugged terrain, investigators said they have to be more thorough in combing the area for evidence.

Police said they are trying to locate witnesses or anyone who may have information about the incident.

UCSD sent out an alert to its students and faculty on Monday morning regarding the incident, although it's unclear whether the woman had any ties to the university.

We will update this story once more information becomes available.

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Leave Comments

10 comments

- Also post on Facebook
- Posting as Antenna Clark • Comment
- Jesselyn Woodruffe • Top Commenter • Dir. Mike Mendicino at Unity Way Church
Suspicious? Multiple stab wounds (as opposed to slitting the wrists). No weapon has been found - that tells me that somebody had to have carried it off. How can it be a suicide? Makes no sense to me.
Reply • Like • 2 • Follow Post • January 14, 2014 at 7:58am
- Christine Mason • Top Commenter
right she stabbed herself to death but the knife is nowhere to be found? remember there are some investigators who investigate the death and said it was suicide, the claim was so preposterous even the national media picked it up.
Reply • Like • January 14, 2014 at 11:31pm
- Christine Mason • Top Commenter
people are still waiting on an ID NBC...its getting a little ridiculous that you do not have an ID yet and that you are no longer getting along this...then reveal at least be a dummy "no ID not on woman discovered in ravine"...its making you and the police look like you are helping to cover something up.
Reply • Like • Follow Post • January 17, 2014 at 3:24pm
- Christine Mason • Top Commenter
And how could I forget Graham Downes in April 2013? Do people think its strange that the media is not covering the Graham Downes trial at all? Aren't they the slightest bit interested in how this prominent architect was allegedly murdered by a co-worker? Don't they want to listen to the testimony and hear what the "Tight" was about? Don't they find it curious that not a single witness has ever come forward and that the cops already came upon Graham and the co-worker passed out on the ground...aren't witnesses but immediately knew a big trial occurred and that's how Graham's trial was completely hushed up? Yet someone the assailant doesn't have a scratch on him?
Reply • Like • Follow Post • January 14, 2014 at 11:38pm
- Christine Mason • Top Commenter
LOTS of people are complaining about the death in the last month. Something is very fishy here. Let me tell you I have all along December 15th we had a man pushed off bridge and man found floating in Torrey Pines. He was killed at all. Some time passed (possibly 30 days) before he was found. I think the media is interested in all these weird deaths but it would be interesting to hear from the police on the Graham Downes case. As far as I know people may have been involved on how lost some (the NBC...didn't push off bridge on Balboa in, didn't floating in river and this woman...is it too much to ask to know who they are?
Reply • Like • Follow Post • January 14, 2014 at 11:40pm
- Vanessa Lampson • University of California, San Diego
I also received a campus alert email (although I don't know if it made the news) about a woman who had a mental health issue from behind and got her neck with a knife about a month ago. She was not murdered but I wonder if the two are connected.
Reply • Like • Follow Post • January 16, 2014 at 9:05am
- Christine Mason • Top Commenter
let's us ID We must have an identity by now. I mean they said she was not a transient...why no follow up on an ID?
Reply • Like • Follow Post • January 14, 2014 at 11:32pm
- Facebook social plug



Woman found behind aquarium had been stabbed

POSTED 10:56 AM, JANUARY 13, 2014, BY [BOB PONTING](#), UPDATED AT 06:32PM, JANUARY 13, 2014

[TWITTER](#) [FACEBOOK](#) [GOOGLE](#) [PINTEREST](#) [LINKEDIN](#) [EMAIL](#)

SAN DIEGO — A woman in her 30s found in a ravine behind Birch Aquarium had been stabbed multiple times, police said Monday.



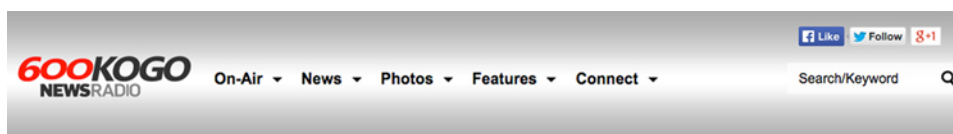
The unidentified woman was alive when landscapers at University of California San Diego found her at about 7:15 a.m., investigators said. She died in an ambulance on the way to Scripps La Jolla Hospital.

The woman was found off the 2300 block of Expedition Way, police Detective Gary Hassen said.

Homicide investigators were handling the case.

Investigators said they were not actively searching for a suspect as of Monday evening.

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Woman Who Fell in La Jolla was Stabbed

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Posted Monday, January 13th 2014 @ 12pm

Authorities say a woman who fell off a slope behind the Birch Aquarium in La Jolla has died and she had stab wounds. San Diego County lifeguards and officers with the San Diego Police Department said the incident occurred just before 8 a.m. on the 2300 block of Expedition Way.

According to officers, CPR was performed on the 24-year-old woman, but she died at 8:06 a.m. after arriving at an area hospital. Police are at the scene and continuing the investigate the fall.

This is the second cliff fatality in two days in San Diego County. Police released the name of a woman who fell at Sunset Cliffs and died Sunday. 25-year old Anna Bachman was visiting from Chicago and was posing as her sister took a picture; when she backed up too far, lost her balance and fell.



POSTED ON [JANUARY 13, 2014](#) BY [ALLIE KIEKHOFFER](#)

BREAKING: Woman Found Stabbed Behind Birch Aquarium Dies

A woman who was found with multiple stab wounds in a ravine behind the Birch Aquarium at 7:15 a.m. Monday has died, according to a Fox 5 News report.

The news comes hours after UCSD students who are subscribed to the Triton Alert emergency notifications received an email reporting Monday morning that the woman, believed to be in her thirties, had been found in a ravine and transported to the hospital. According to the alert, police responded to the woman's calls at 7:30 a.m.

The woman was still alive when she was found by UCSD landscapers Monday but died in transit to the hospital, according to the article.

Follow the Guardian for more updates on this and all breaking stories.



Police located the subject, a woman in her 30s, in a ravine behind Birch Aquarium this morning.

UCSD Police NoticeTo: apb-l@ucsd.edu

Reply-To: UCSD Police Notice

[APB-L] Suspicious Death Update

January 15, 2014 at 2:56 PM

UP

TIMELY WARNING UPDATE
University of California, San Diego**UC SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT**
January 15, 2014**ALL ACADEMICS, STAFF AND STUDENTS AT UCSD****SUBJECT: Update on Birch Aquarium Suspicious Death**

On Monday 1/13/14 at 7:30 a.m., an unidentified woman was found with injuries in the ravine near Birch Aquarium. The San Diego Police Department is investigating and has categorized the investigation as a suspicious death, not a homicide. Suicide has not been ruled out. The final determination of the cause of death is pending results from the San Diego County Medical Examiner's investigation. There are no outstanding suspects in the case and police are currently attempting to identify the woman. Anyone with information should contact the San Diego Police Department at (619) 531-2000.

The UC San Diego Police Department is committed to ensuring the public safety of everyone in our campus community. We are working closely with the San Diego Police Department to provide information and assistance related to the investigation wherever possible.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind people of important safety information and UC San Diego Police services.

- As always, be aware of your surroundings.
- Use discretion and caution when taking shortcuts through isolated areas of the campus.
- Know the location of campus emergency telephones on routes to and from campus destinations.
- Use the UC San Diego Safety Escort Program, (858) 534-WALK(9255), available daily from dusk to dawn.
- Report suspicious on campus activity immediately to UC San Diego Police (858) 534-4357, off campus to San Diego Police Department (619)531-2000 or 9-1-1 (emergencies).
- Lighting concerns on campus should be reported to Facilities Management by following the below link and clicking "Lighting Issues." <http://aps-workrequest.ucsd.edu/>
- You may also report lighting issues to the Annual Light Survey coordinator by calling Nancy Wahlig at (858) 534-5793.

For additional safety tips follow the link below to the UC San Diego Police web page.
<http://blink.ucsd.edu/safety/emergencies/security/index.html#Personal-safety>

For any questions related to campus safety, please contact the UC San Diego Police Department at (858) 534-4357 or visit us online at
<http://blink.ucsd.edu/safety/emergencies/security/contacts.html>.

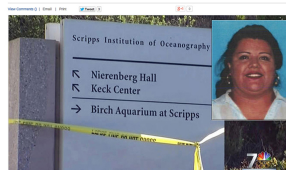


NEWS - LOCAL

Woman Found Stabbed Near Birch Aquarium ID'd

Claudia Alvarez Garcia, 43, was found with multiple stab wounds on Jan. 13 near Birch Aquarium.

By R. Ramirez



Updated at 3:28 PM PDT on Thursday, Jan 30, 2014

Officials released the identity of a San Diego woman found stabbed in a ravine near Birch Aquarium earlier this month.

The county medical examiner's office identified the woman as 43-year-old Claudia Alvarez-Garcia of San Diego. She was described by investigators as a housekeeper who worked in the La Jolla area.



NBC 7's Sherrine Taghian reports from Birch Aquarium in La Jolla where a woman was found stabbed and unresponsive early Monday. (Published Monday, Jan 13, 2014)

San Diego police homicide investigators were called to 2300 Expedition Way on Jan. 13 after a groundskeeper reported finding a woman's body with multiple stab wounds.

Although she was still alive, Alvarez-Garcia was unresponsive and medical crews transported her to Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, where she later died, according to police.

Alvarez-Garcia's death was originally classified as a homicide, but police then changed the categorization to a suspicious death and said suicide has not been ruled out.

The medical examiner has not determined the cause or manner of death according to the information released Thursday.

Published at 1:00 PM PDT on Jan 30, 2014

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17 comments

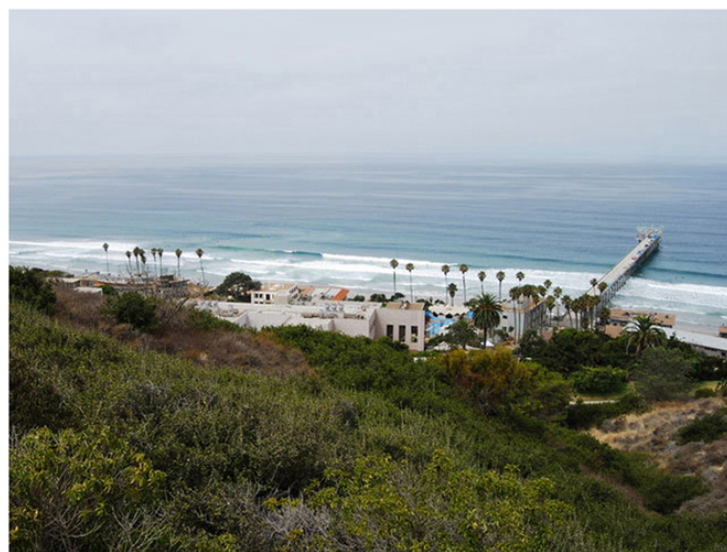
- Add a comment...
- Also post on Facebook
- Posting as **Amberica Clark** - [Comment](#)
- Jayme Leffers** - [Top Commenter](#) - Edison High School
I wish I knew the way would call it a possible suicide... who would stab themselves multiple times? I hope people will look into this. Investigation must look like the so-called "homicide" of Rebecca Zahau.
- Reply - Like - [#3](#) 13 - Follow Post - January 30, 2014 at 3:14pm
- Valerie Velasco** - Owner at South Sea
Claudia and I have each other since 2000 there is no possible way she would kill herself. And there herself in a ditch. She loved herself and there around her. I'm surprised that would ever be a possibility in this investigation.
- Reply - Like - [#3](#) 9 - Follow Post - January 30, 2014 at 6:10pm
- Christine Mena** - [Top Commenter](#)
Where do you know where she was? I agree no way this is suicide. Question is where do you know where she was? Can you tell me where she was? I hope people will look into this. Investigation must look like the so-called "homicide" of Rebecca Zahau.
- Reply - Like - [#3](#) 10 - Follow Post - January 30, 2014 at 11:30pm
- Valerie Velasco** - Owner at South Sea
I look like me the first don't want to spend the money on a ongoing investigation if you ask me. The afraid for the others if it is the way the police should not and looking in investigation on someone who would then take their life. I am not a doctor.
- Reply - Like - [#3](#) 6 - Follow Post - January 31, 2014 at 2:23pm
- Christine Mena** - [Top Commenter](#)
I would recommend if you know the family of this woman have them contact the family of Rebecca Zahau. They are suing the city now over their daughter's obvious death. Also they are suing the city now over their daughter's obvious death. There are a lot of people here who support them and want justice for their daughter.
- Reply - Like - [#3](#) 2 - Follow Post - January 31, 2014 at 6:50pm
- Kathie NO** - [Top Commenter](#) - San Diego High School
Gives the 43 police don't think she is worth investigating for murder. Who states themselves to death? The LA around here is very strange and unprofessional.
- Reply - Like - [#3](#) 5 - Follow Post - January 30, 2014 at 6:10pm
- Valerie Velasco**
She was a friend of mine she was an EXTREMELY nice Christian and humble woman. This is very sad. She would help anyone that needed a help. I am in total shock and disbelief that this happened to her. She was beautiful! There is NO way she would have committed suicide. She loved herself and there around her. I'm surprised that would ever be a possibility in this investigation.
- Reply - Like - [#3](#) 4 - Follow Post - January 31, 2014 at 9:10am
- Christine Mena** - [Top Commenter](#)
Do you have any idea who would do this to her? I feel the need to get her justice. There were a lot of people who were at the time all being killed in one. Something weird happened on this. Do you have the connection to people in government or any other? I hope people will look into this. Investigation must look like the so-called "homicide" of Rebecca Zahau. A man may have off the Rebecca in bridge to Rebecca. Also looking in investigation on someone who would then take their life. I am not a doctor.
- Reply - Like - [#3](#) 2 - Follow Post - January 31, 2014 at 6:50pm
- Christine Mena** - [Top Commenter](#)
Who knows this woman and could tell us more about her? I'm pretty positive to me she was murdered. Question is where do you know where she was? Can you tell me where she was? I hope people will look into this. Investigation must look like the so-called "homicide" of Rebecca Zahau.
- Reply - Like - [#3](#) 4 - Follow Post - January 30, 2014 at 11:30pm
- Martha Patricia Lopez-Hackel**
She used to be my landlady manager at the apt's we used to live in.
- Reply - Like - [#3](#) 3 - Follow Post - January 30, 2014 at 2:23pm
- Patricia Rios** - [Top Commenter](#) - San Diego, California
When does my life go?
- Reply - Like - [#3](#) 1 - Follow Post - January 31, 2014 at 3:20pm
- R. Ramirez** - NBC 7 News
I know that her husband killed her... because she found out he was having an affair with another woman by the name of Celia...
- Reply - Like - [#3](#) 1 - Follow Post - February 2, 2014 at 7:00pm
- Barbara Rios** - [Top Commenter](#)
Rest in Peace, dear Claudia.
- Reply - Like - [#3](#) 1 - Follow Post - January 30, 2014 at 6:10pm
- Ginger Gar** - [Top Commenter](#)
I believe the stabbing matter has been "Closed" first, then "kill".
- Reply - Like - [#3](#) 1 - Follow Post - January 30, 2014 at 2:23pm
- Deep Venter** - [Top Commenter](#)
I am not here.
- Reply - Like - [#3](#) 9 - Follow Post - January 30, 2014 at 4:43pm
- Yessal del Real** - Escuela Secundaria Tecnica 33
Suicidio? Por favor! (I investigate la muerte e el delito no puede quedar así!!)
- Reply - Like - [#3](#) 1 - Follow Post - January 30, 2014 at 2:23pm
- Humy Ortiz del Real**
La investigación es obvia e incontestable y es obvia que se trata de un suicidio. Hay muchas cosas que se ven en esta foto que indican que se trata de un suicidio. Hay muchas cosas que se ven en esta foto que indican que se trata de un suicidio. Hay muchas cosas que se ven en esta foto que indican que se trata de un suicidio.
- Reply - Like - [#3](#) 1 - Follow Post - January 31, 2014 at 2:14pm

Facebook social plug-in



Death of woman found with stab wounds near Birch Aquarium ruled a suicide

BY: 10News Digital Team
POSTED: 5:22 PM, May 8, 2014
UPDATED: 5:24 PM, May 8, 2014



PICTURE BY ROEBOT/CREATIVECOMMONS

[+SHOW CAPTION](#)

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RELATED

Woman's death not being called homicide

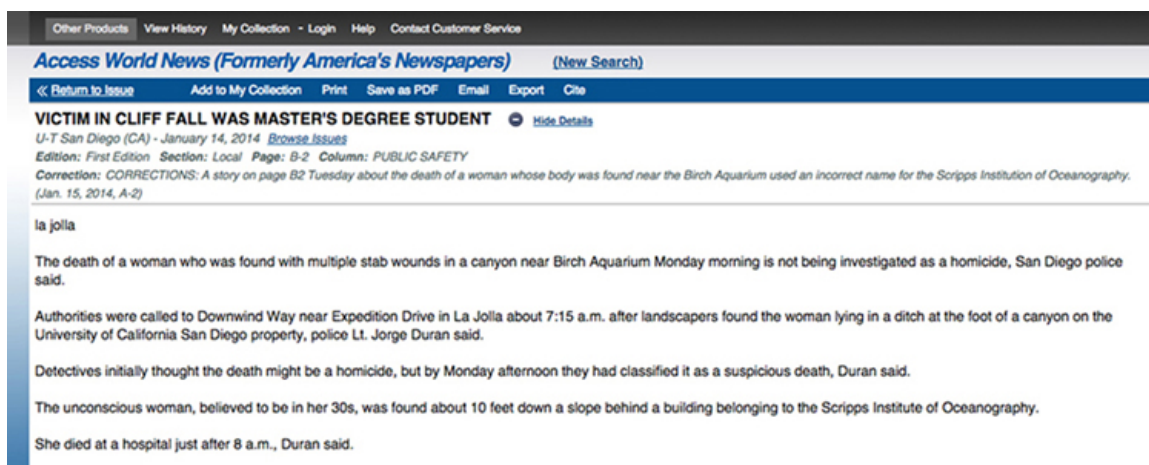
LA JOLLA - A woman found covered in stab wounds at the base of a ravine near the Birch Aquarium committed suicide, according to a medical examiner's report.

In January, 43-year-old Claudia Alvarez-Garcia was found behind a shed near the Scripps Oceanographic Institution.

She was badly wounded and CPR was immediately performed on her but she did not survive. She was taken to a hospital where she was pronounced dead.

Her death was initially investigated as a homicide because she had multiple stab wounds on her neck and torso.

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Circular Movement Studies

Performance for video, time varies. Shown at *Mux Demux*, Commonwealth & Council, Los Angeles, May 31, 2014.

With a camcorder on my cheek, I rotate horizontally until it falls off.

Lo Que Recuerdo

Performance for video & performance, *Mux Demux*, Commonwealth & Council, Los Angeles, May 31, 2014.

As a child, I took Folklorico lessons. La Negra was the first dance I learned. This is all I can recall of it today.

May 5, 2014: Pew Research Center reports that 2.5 million “Hispanic” Americans who had indicated “Other Race” on the 2000 census had marked “White” in 2010.

June 13, 2014: My second year at UCSD’s Department of Visual Arts ends.







August 8, 2014: *Are We Having Fun Yet? No, I Don't Think So*
Performance. *SOMAWAX*, Bikini Wax Gallery, Mexico City.

A performance in which I gave myself two tattoos - one happy face and one sad - comprised of dots that account for each audience member that entered the space and each that left or passed by, respectively. Instead of making a happy face, however, I accidentally drew a sad one. (Documentation by Violette Bule.)

September 11-12, 2014: Oscar Pistorius is found not guilty of the murder but guilty of the culpable homicide of Reeva Steenkamp. He is given a sentence of five years in prison. The sentence may be served under correctional supervision after 10 months in prison.

September 29, 2014: My third year at UCSD's Department of Visual Arts begins.

January 30, 2015: *Smile Now Cry Later*

Performance. *Cognitive Camouflage*, A Ship in the Woods, Del Mar, CA.

A performance in which I gave myself two tattoos – that says “SMILE NOW,” one that says “CRY LATER – comprised of dots that account for each audience member that entered the space and each that left or passed by, respectively.

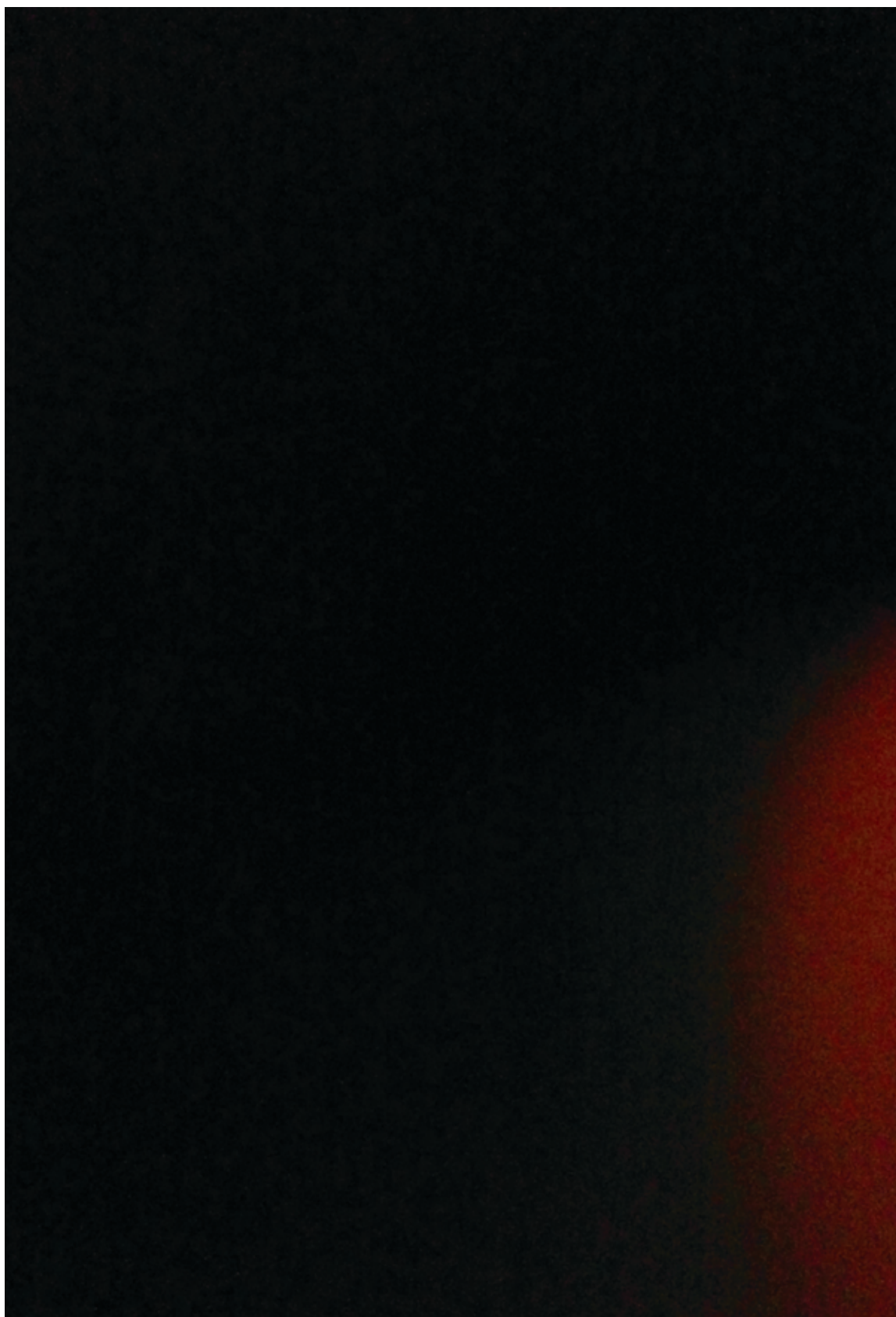
February 9, 2015: The prosecution in South Africa vs. Oscar Pistorius files notice to appeal Pistorius' murder acquittal.



May 13-15, 2015: *Nothing We Haven't Seen Before*, my thesis show.
Visual Arts Graduate Gallery, UCSD.
This show includes the following works:

Untitled (2013/2015)

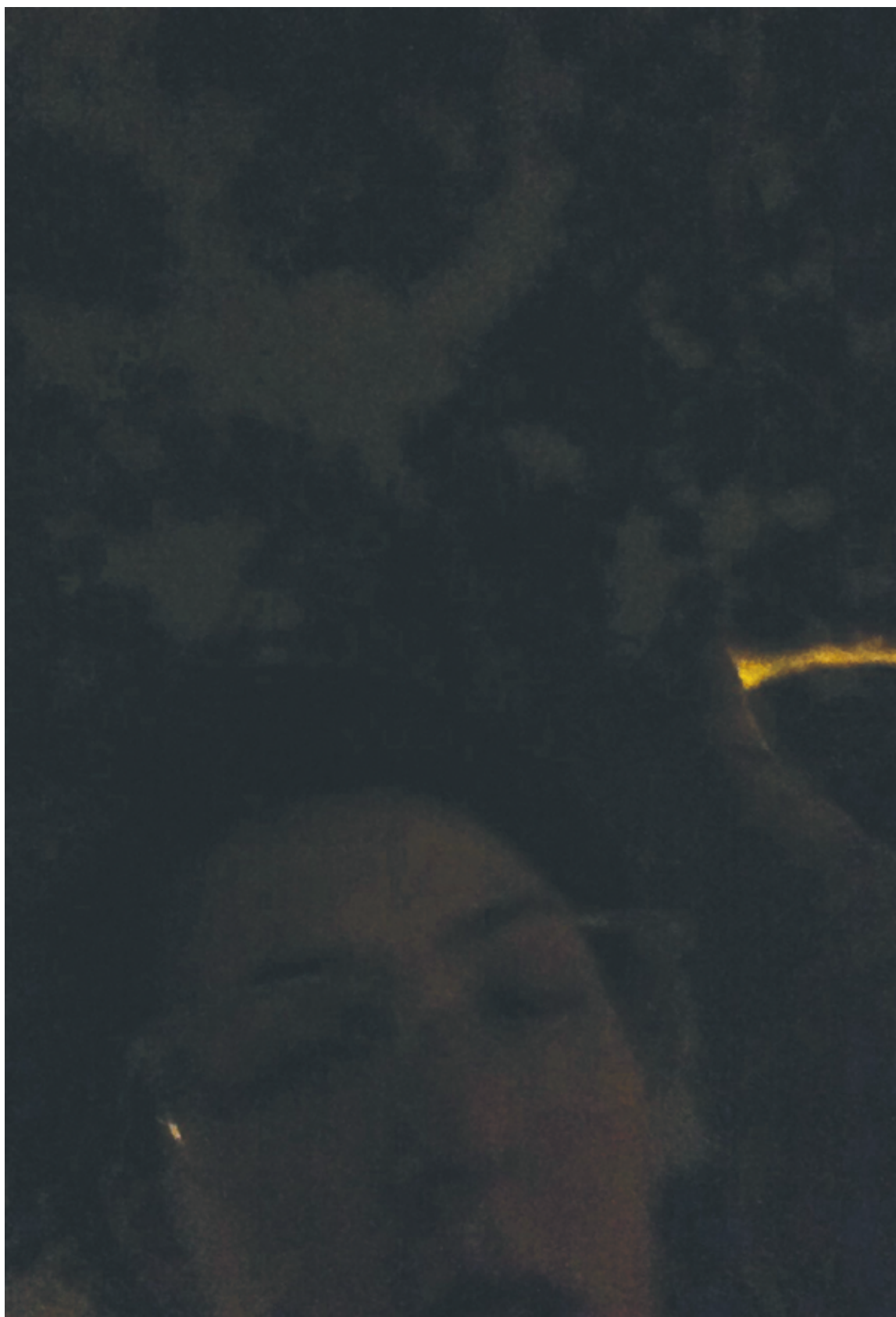
10 postcards printed with images taken by the artist on her iPhone on during the night of March 3-4, 2013. Dimensions variable, individual stacks to be placed in accordance with the location in which they were taken relative to each other.





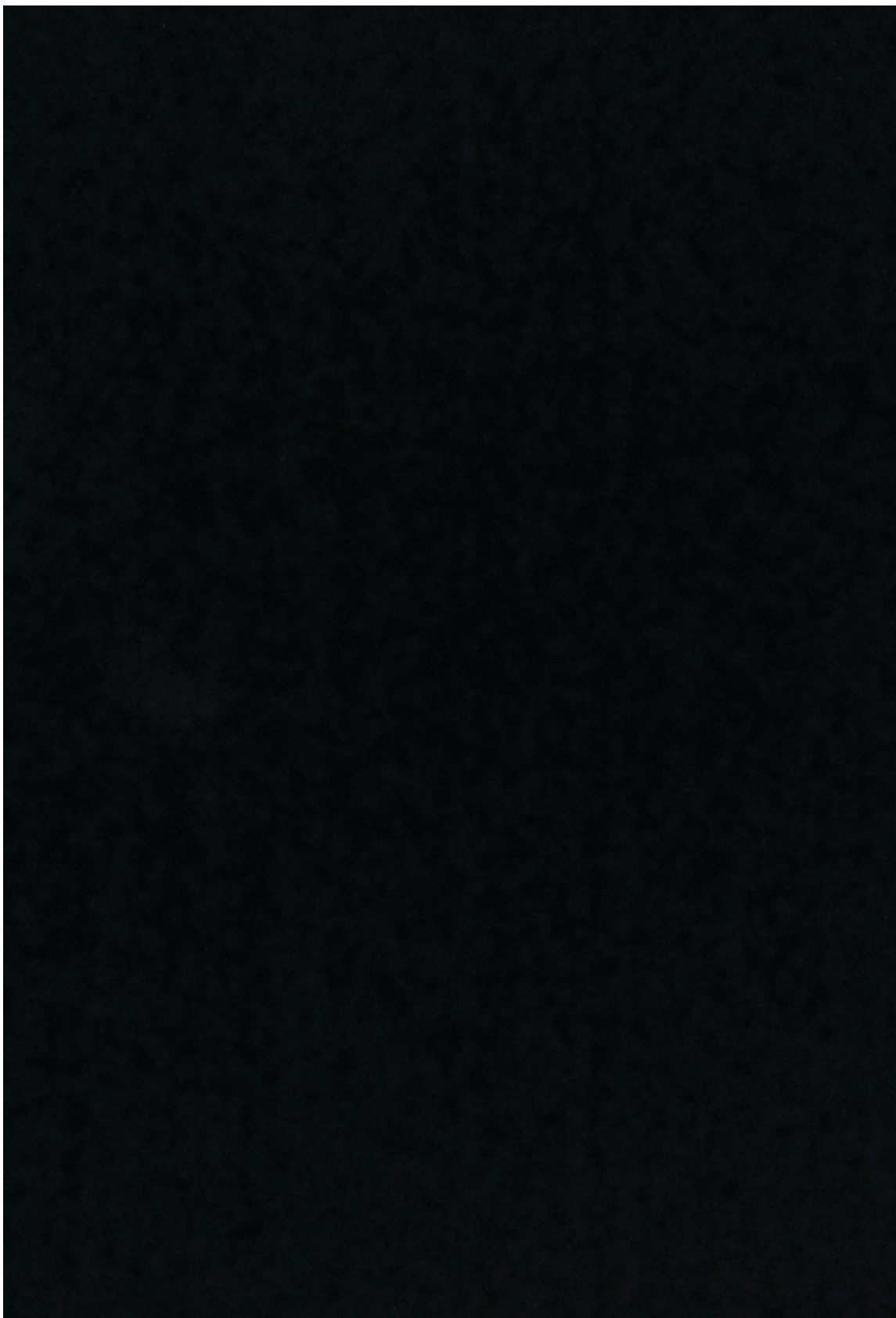
















Untitled (2015)

Recording of the artist reading aloud the seconds she cannot remember from March 3-4, 2013. TRT: 10:00:00.

Untitled (2015)

HD video taken from the perspective of Claudia Alvarez on the morning of January 13, 2014. Color, Sound. TRT: 2:00:00. Dimensions variable.

Untitled (2015)

List of victims of uxoricide at the hands of cultural leaders and producers whose spouses were neither legally nor publicly found guilty of murder*; vinyl. Dimensions variable.

*Those with asterisks either were not married to their murderers or were victims of attempted murder.

June 12, 2015: My third year at UCSD's Department of Visual Arts ends.



Untitled (2015)