



LIBRARY EXHIBITION/

COCO FUSCO/*Operation Atropos*

November 8 – December 13, 2008

WHITEFLAGPROJECTS.ORG

Operation Atropos is a documentary about interrogation and POW resistance training. Director Coco Fusco worked with retired U.S. Army interrogators who subjected her group of women students to immersive simulations of POW experiences in order to show them what hostile interrogations can be like and how members of the U.S. military are taught to resist them. The group of interrogators is called Team Delta, and they regularly offer intensive courses that they call "Authentic Military Experiences" to civilians. The documentary includes interviews with the interrogators that shed light on how they read personalities, evaluate an interrogatee's reliability, and use the imposition of physical and mental stress strategically. More fundamentally, however, the film shows how interrogators rationalize what they do and how they imagine both themselves and their enemies.

Coco Fusco is a New York-based interdisciplinary artist and writer. She has performed, lectured, exhibited, and curated around the world since 1988. She is the author of *English is Broken Here* (The New Press, 1995), *The Bodies That Were Not Ours and Other Writings* (Routledge/inIVA, 2001) and the editor of *Corpus Delecti: Performance Art of the Americas* (Routledge, 1999) and *Only Skin Deep: Changing Visions of the American Self* (Abrams, 2003). Fusco is a recipient of a 2003 Herb Alpert Award in the Arts.

Fusco's performances and videos have been included in such events as The Whitney Biennial, Sydney Biennale, The Johannesburg Biennial, The Kwangju Biennale, The London International Theatre Festival, and the National Review of Live Art. Her 1993 documentary about her caged Amerindian performance with Guillermo Gómez-Peña, *The Couple in the Cage*, has been screened at over two hundred venues around the world. She recently curated a comprehensive exhibition on racial taxonomy in American photography for the International Center for Photography, *Only Skin Deep: Changing Visions of the American Self*, that is currently on tour. Her latest video, *a/k/a Mrs. George Gilbert*, was selected for the 2004 Shanghai Biennale and screened at the Museum of Modern Art in 2005. Her video, *Els Segadors*, commissioned by the Museum Boijmans in Rotterdam in 2001 was featured in the ICP's first Triennial in 2003. Her video installation, *Dolores from 10 to 10*, received an honorable mention from the 2003 Transmediale Festival in Berlin.

Fusco's writings have appeared in a wide variety of publications, including *The Village Voice*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Art in America*, *The Nation*, *Ms.*, *Frieze*, *Third Text*, and *Nka: Journal of African Art*, as well as a number of anthologies. She is the co-founder and co-moderator of *Undercurrents*, an on-line discussion about feminism, new technologies and globalization. Fusco is an associate professor in the Visual Arts Division of Columbia University's School of the Arts.

(Text courtesy Video Data Bank, Chicago.)

White Flag Projects is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit alternative art gallery established to improve the viability of contemporary visual arts in St. Louis by facilitating meaningful exhibitions of quality work by progressive local, national, and international artists.

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