parlour

Behind the Wall October 25-26, 2008

Parlour, a new nomadic exhibition space hosted in a different home each month in New York City, is excited to announce the opening of its inaugural exhibition, *Behind the Wall*, on October 25, 2008 from 6-9 PM. The show features works by three brilliant, young artists, Bijoux Altamirano, Jiyoung Park and Mai Ueda, and takes place in the apartment of Bijoux Altamirano.

You unlock this door with the key of imagination. Beyond it is another dimension—a dimension of sound, a dimension of sight, a dimension of mind. You're moving into a land of both shadow and substance, of things and ideas. You've just crossed over into the Twilight Zone.

Behind the Wall is a multi-media exhibition that traverses "the other side", where nothingness gives shape to form, where time flickers between past, present and future, where robotic voices emanate from human beings, and where a constant chilling soundtrack can be heard at all times. Ranging from painting to performance, the works in *Behind the Wall* navigate another dimension and by doing so question our own perceptions of reality.

In *Chloe*, Jiyoung Park's large, black and white triptych, we see a dark, cluttered interior. Magazines, rock paraphernalia, shoes, electronics and a collection of exotic bugs spill out of the supersaturated space. Painted based on digital images supplied by the owner of the space, Park takes what is already a representation of reality and creates her own constructed environment by utilizing contradictory perspectives and scales, fragmented views and a monochromatic palette.

Mai Ueda's improvised musical performance entitled *Soundtrack for a Horror Situation*, which will be performed with trumpet player Joshua Winslet, is part of her "essence song" series. The idea behind these is to sing the essence of a certain song, allowing the audience to create their "own fantasy". As a member of the art movement Neen, Ueda believes that life is a simulation and machines help us understand and feel comfortable with this. A segment from the Neen Manifesto explains it further: "Opening the door of your room or clicking on the folder on your computer's desktop will send you to similar destinations—two versions of reality that are seemingly perfect and dense, but they will start dissolving after you analyze them."

Bijoux Altamirano's eerie films weave a web of intrigue around a sleeping pill dealer and her glamorous clientele. Through the use of monotone voices, repetition, soap opera-like sound tracks and the superficial concerns of her protagonists, which range from needing a new look to a new pair of shoes, Altamirano is able to incorporate the numbness of sleeping pills into her films. The result is a dream-like quality that leaves the viewer in a trance-like state—a potentially dangerous position to be in, as the protagonist in the third films states, "I think I might be sleep walking right now. If I am sleep walking, there is no way for me to know while I'm doing it. There is no way to be sure."

Bijoux Altamirano was born and raised in New York City and has studied film at Pratt Institute. Jiyoung Park, originally from Seoul, South Korea, is a recent graduate from the Hunter College MFA program and now lives and works in Brooklyn. Mai Ueda studied fine art in Japan at the Kyoto College of Art and in New York at F.I.T; she currently lives and works in Manhattan.

Parlour's impetus is to showcase the work of contemporary artists in a unique and dynamic setting. Parlour was conceived by Ciara Gilmartin and Leslie Rosa-Stumpf. Both are graduates of Sarah Lawrence College. Ms. Gilmartin currently works for an NGO at the United Nations and Mrs. Rosa-Stumpf works at a contemporary art gallery in SoHo, and as a freelance curator.

Behind the Wall is open on Saturday, October 25th from 6 – 9 PM and Sunday, October 26th from 12 – 6 PM by appointment. For more information, please contact Leslie or Ciara at parlourinfo@gmail.com.