



ANA ESTEVE REIG. FICTIONAL STAGES

30 January to 23 April 2023
Curator: Semíramis González

The Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza is presenting *Fictional Stages*, a solo exhibition by Ana Esteve Reig (born Agres, Alicante, 1986) which focuses on issues such as identity and its construction, the importance of images in this process and the elements that culturally configure our way of being. *Fictional Stages* is the sixth edition of the Kora exhibition programme, which presents the work of young Spanish women creators at the museum.

In *Fictional Stages* Esteve Reig reflects on music, the internet, social media and human relations through various audiovisual works in which the protagonists move freely between different identities, aesthetics and realities in an ongoing process of construction. The artist looks at the process of configuring one's own identity through a focus on different social groups, allowing her to present their realities through moving images.

Three of the audiovisuals are shown in the museum's first floor exhibition space: *The documentary of Delilah* (2016); *Double Fiction* (2021); and *Fancams* (2022). In addition, a series of three videos made specially for the exhibition are presented in Rooms 19, 20 and 21 of the permanent collection alongside works which inspired the artist, by Peter Paul Rubens, Hendrick ter Brugghen and Willem Kalf.

In *The documentary of Delilah* Esteve Reig analyses the way our bodies and self-image are transformed in digital spaces and the social media in order to offer an artificial vision of people. She uses Virgolini, a supposedly famous singer invented by creator Dalila Virgolini to present herself before the camera. Between the two they devise a documentary that mixes reality and fiction, revealing how Dalila constructs her alter ego and how Virgolini films a videoclip of one of her songs with the aim of revealing the significant role played by the social media in the construction of contemporary identity.

Film doubles are the protagonists of *Double Fiction*, a work that includes action scenes performed by women. Until very recently this high-risk profession was almost entirely limited to men, who even acted as doubles for the female characters.

Images: Ana Esteve Reig. Stills from *The documentary of Delilah*, 2016. Courtesy of the artist.



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More information and images:

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<https://www.museothyssen.org/en/private-area/press/dossiers/ana-estev-reig-fictional-stages>



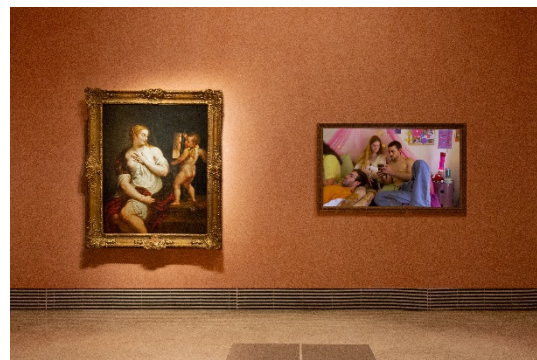
Still from *Double Fiction* (2021). Courtesy of the artist

In this video the women from Valkiria Stunts, the only female stunt team in Spain, act out scenes in which the double was originally a man, thus championing their presence in the film industry.

The third audiovisual, *Fancams*, refers to a type of video which emerged with K-pop (Korean pop music) made by fans during concerts and shared afterwards on the social

media. Here Esteve Reig shows various young people who meet up at the weekends in order to rehearse and film choreographies that they subsequently post on the internet. Like them, Esteve Reig uses a vertical format but uses a slow-motion camera to introduce a perspective that distances itself from the rapid consumption of videos online.

On display in the galleries of the permanent collection is *Dead Time: an essay on waiting and desire*, a series of three videos specially created for this exhibition. Inspired by three 17th-century paintings, they portray the so-called "Generation Z" (people born between approximately 1995-and 2005). Rubens's *Venus and Cupid* is related here to self-contemplation and today's *selfies*, while in *Lobby* we see a group of friends in one of their bedrooms, spending their time looking at their phones.



Instalation view, Room 19. *Lobby* (2022)

In *Dreaming*, inspired by *Esau selling his Birthright* by Hendrick ter Brugghen, the artist shows the same young people asleep, in almost the same position in which they were seen during the day. Finally, *Still Life* brings together the material objects most highly prized in the present day: a computer screen, a keyboard and a mouse, all of which are used to play video games and to access the internet. As in *Still Life with a Chinese Bowl, Nautilus Cup and Other Objects* by Willem Kalf shown alongside it, Esteve Reig creates a still life but one that concerns emotions, artifice and evasion.

Ana Esteve Reig is one of the leading artists of her generation. Having obtained a degree in Fine Arts at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, she specialised in video art at the University of Kassel (Germany). Her work has been recognised with various prizes, including the Injuve for Visual Arts (2011), second prize in the UCM Premio Joven (2014), Circuitos (2017), and the BBVA Multiverso Grant for Video Art Creation (2017). Esteve Reig's work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally.

EXHIBITION INFORMATION

Title: *Ana Esteve Reig. Fictional Stages.*

Organiser: Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid.

Venue and dates: Madrid, Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, 30 January to 23 April. First floor exhibition gallery and Rooms 19, 20 and 21 of the permanent collection.

Curator: Semíramis González.

Coordinator: Laura Andrada, Curatorial Department, Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza.

Catalogue with texts by Semíramis González and Ana Esteve Reig.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Address: Paseo del Prado, 8. 28014, Madrid.

Opening times: Mondays, 12 noon to 4 pm; Tuesdays to Sundays, 10 am to 7 pm.

Free entry to the exhibition space on the first floor.

Ticket prices: Combined ticket: Permanent collection and temporary exhibitions. Standard ticket: 13 Euros; reduced price: 9 Euros for visitors aged over 65, pensioners and students with proof of status; groups (7 or more people): 11 Euros per person; free entry: visitors aged under 18, officially unemployed Spanish citizens, disabled visitors, Large Families, currently employed teachers and holders of the Youth Card and European Youth Card. Advance ticket sales from the museum's ticket desks, its website and on tel: 91 791 13 70.

Institution collaborating with the **Bono Cultural Joven 2022**. Tickets on sale at the museum's ticket desks.

PRESS INFORMATION

<https://www.museothyssen.org/en/private-area/press/dossiers/ana-esteve-reig-fictional-stages>