

cschool Study Guides

C105 Sports

Elizabeth Matheson and Emelie Chhangur, "The Beautiful Game: Art and Sport in the Work of Humberto Vélez," *C Magazine* 105 (Spring, 2010): p. 30-37.

Humberto Vélez's *The Welcoming* (2006) and *MultipleCity* (2003) used performance to explore identity and cultural politics, while *Dreambody* (2008) explored the marginalized world of bodybuilding. *The Fight* (2007) involved musicians, dancers and members of South London's historic boxing clubs in a fight that occurred within the iconic Tate Modern. In his work Vélez engages sports, particularly boxing and bodybuilding, as a means to examine the symbiotic relationship between spectacle and participation, as well as problematic notions of masculinity in athletic contexts.

Consider the following questions:

1. *Dreambody* presents an interesting dialectic concerning the gendering of female and male bodies through bodybuilding. Departing from the feminization of the male body and the masculinization of the female body, how are, in the words of Douglas Aoki, these bodybuilders "neither as masculine or feminine"?
2. UK artist Jeremy Deller's *Battle of Orgreave* is a live re-enactment of the climactic clash between picketing miners and riot police, outside the BSC plant at Orgreave. How does Vélez's work *The Welcoming* (2006) involve aspects of performance, reenactment and orchestrated fictions to explore civic pride and public space, in ways that are similar to Jeremy Deller's work?
3. How does performance play a role in healing conflict, or trauma related ethnic or political tensions, particularly when the spectacle of *The Fight* or *The Welcoming* implicates the viewer as part of the work?

Additional Sources

Robert Blackson, "Once More with Feeling: Reenactment in Contemporary Art and Culture," *Art Journal*, Vol. 66, no. 1 (Spring, 2007): 28-40.

Douglas Sadao Aoki, "Posing the Subject: Sex, Illumination, and *Pumping Iron II: The Women.*" *Cinema Journal*, Vol. 38, no. 4 (Summer, 1999): 24-44

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John Rechy, "Muscles and Mascara: on Bodybuilding as an Art," *Art Issues*, no. 53 (Summer 1998): 15-19.

Manuel Toledo, "Humberto Velez," *Art Nexus*, Vol. 7, no. 68 (March/May, 2008).

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