

Press release:

SportCult

Curated by:

Euridice Arratia

September 7 - October 6, 2001

PRESS OPENING: Friday, September 7, 5-6 pm

Public opening reception: Friday, September 7, 6-8 pm

Carlos Amorales

Gustavo Artigas

Elisabetta Benassi

Ana Busto and Sandra Seymour

Mónica de la Torre and Bruce Pearson

Godfried Donkor

Satch Hoyt

Michaela Schweiger

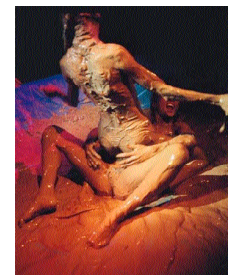
Grazia Toderi



Carlos Amorales *Amorales vs. Amorales*, 2000

It's no wonder that sports function with such power in society. Often it is a nation's identity itself that is sports' principal narrative. Sports recount compelling stories of individual exploits and collective yearnings, but they also act as a meeting ground where far-ranging issues commingle, sometimes in contradiction. Side by side in the complex field of sports, one finds notions of leisure and entertainment and of bodily regimens and discipline, notions of athletes as symbols of local pride and idealism and as commodities and corporate entities. Coming from diverse backgrounds and using a variety of media, the artists included in *SportCult* point to the pervasiveness of the sports culture and its richness for metaphorical play.

The work of video artists Grazia Toderi and Elisabetta Benassi (Italy) dwells in the charged intersection between the sport arena and private and collective dreams. Carlos Amorales explores in his performances the world of lucha libre (wrestling), a wildly popular entertainment in his native Mexico. Gustavo Artigas (Mexico) stages and documents "sport events," hiring semi-professional players to play soccer, basketball, or, in the case of his installation for *SportCult*, mudwrestling. In her interactive work *Carrera*, the German artist Michaela Schweiger revels in the childhood fascination with mimetic play.



Gustavo Artigas
From the VS series: #4,
2001



Satch Hoyt *The Don KingDom*, 2001

Godfried Donkor (Ghana-UK) and Satch Hoyt (Jamaica) both investigate how race and corporate power mix it up in the world of boxing. Donkor has created wallpaper specifically for the exhibition, depicting eighteenth-century boxers superimposed on the pages of the London Financial Times. Hoyt, in his figural work, takes as a point of departure the famous impresario Don King in creating his sculpture made entirely of boxing gloves.

The soundscape *Night Fights*, created by Ana Busto (Spain) and Sandra Seymour (USA) is an aural excerpt of the intense life of the boxer. And keeping with the interdisciplinary spirit of this exhibition, the Mexican poet Mónica de la Torre, has teamed up with the American artist Bruce Pearson to create a piece conjoining text and image that looks at the culture of recreation sports.

A color brochure containing an essay by Euridice Arratia will be available free of charge. Please contact Apex Art for further information.

Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 11-6.

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