

Universo vídeo. Reflexionando a través de la imagen

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One which particularly impressed me at the exhibition viewing was the piece by Laura Huertas Millán, *Voyage en la terre autrement dite* (2011), in which a narrator tells us in first person through a voice-over about the experience of arriving in the “New World”, of finding a new geographical space which he was not prepared for.

The images, which were shot in the Tropical Garden of Lille, very subtly show nevertheless two different ideas: the feelings of anyone who arrives in another place and occupies it, who becomes an oppressor and conquista* [conquers] a place which is not theirs, with the modern European mindset of the domination of the weak. Additionally, a parallel is drawn between modernity today, where the exotic (if indeed, there is really anything exotic) can be found anywhere, even in botanical gardens. The visual disorientation contrasts with the descriptive precision of the narrator, who seems to be speaking of the same place that we can see. However, nowadays you don't have to go far to enter a jungle, nor to closely observe plant species characteristic of America.

This kind of cultural and social pastiche where we enjoy pretending to be in another place, which also has a certain exotic and ruinous romantic sense, is a postmodern heritage in the less optimistic sense of the word. We cannot help thinking about those theme parks that are capable of taking you from Polynesia to classical antiquity or Egypt in its greatest splendour.