

## **Michael Linares | *Was it a rat I saw?***

**the artist saw the rat**

**the finger saw the rainbow**

**the toulambi tribe saw the white man**

**the spectator didn't see**

**the painter wasn't there**

**the rat saw the mirror**

**the elephants made new work**

**the gallerist refused to consign**

**the insignificant works were handmade signs**

**the artist is crafty- that comes in handy**

**as he is behind the wall and behind the viewers of the viewers**

**there is no doubt the artist is the rat**

**–another artist**

The artist has memory and is able to recognize him/herself in a mirror, both characteristics indicate he/she is aware of him/herself as an individual in a collective. Elephants do too. \*

A video made in 1976 documents the first ever encounter of a Nueva Guinea's tribe with the white man. This work portrays both tribes' curiosity in observing each other and by showing it on a screen one would feel curiosity to observe this too, except Michael D. Linares decides to cover it. A prohibited self-recognition interest is what the artist seems to be curious to observe.

As a way to conveniently state the artist has the ultimate control of his work's meaning, *Insignificant* is chosen as the title for a series of prints. Because the work is not only explained by hand sign language, but it is as well hand printed on hand made paper, the artist might be redirecting the significance to its craft. Michael D. Linares is painter of origin, born in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

With these works the artist, like every other artist, proves himself an artist, when trying to recognize his own abilities, as a way to find an origin to his own practice. The self-awareness capacity, intrinsic to the human aesthetic knowledge becomes the base of his observation and inspired on this idea, all the pieces above described exit the artist's studio in Puerto Rico to be presented in ltd los angeles for the exhibition under the title "*Was it a rat I saw?*"

PS – The viewer can view other viewers by hiding in a wall, simultaneously creating a multi-gaze mural in the back part of the gallery. The artist will observe the wall, the viewers, and the viewed; having said this, I believe the artist is the rat.

\* The elephant paintings are real

-Adriana Lara, 2013