

## **Kalup Linzy**

*Fantasies, Melodramas, and a Dream Called Love*

20 September – 23 October 2010

### Artist's Reception:

Monday, 20 September, 8:30p

ltd los angeles is proud to announce Kalup Linzy's first solo Los Angeles exhibition, *Fantasies, Melodramas, and a Dream Called Love*. The exhibition will open on Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 pm with a special performance by Kalup Linzy at 9pm.

*Fantasies, Melodramas, and a Dream Called Love* will feature three videos, *Keys to Our Heart*, *Melody Set Me Free (the series Episode 3)*, *Lil' Myron's Trade*, new works on paper and film stills. The exhibition will run from September 20<sup>th</sup> until October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010.

ltd los angeles produces exhibit-specific texts pairing artists and writers with an aim to expand the discourse beyond the gallery walls. For this occasion, Kalup Linzy invited James Franco to write about his work based on their individual practices' shared intersection in film, contemporary art and culture. Excerpts of this essay are included below and available in its entirety on: [www.ltdlosangles.com](http://www.ltdlosangles.com)

"Kalup Linzy is a versatile performer and artist who uses multiple voices, personas and media in his work. Underneath all these different faces and forms there is a common and sincere longing for love, identity, and artistic purity. I first met Kalup when he gave a talk to the Columbia graduate art students for their visiting artist lecture series, which I had been crashing every week. I was immediately struck by the pared down, do it yourself aesthetic and underplayed humor of Kalup's work.

During Kalup's lecture, he said that he had studied play writing at art school, but his lip synch technique goes one step further than an author's dissemination of his ideas and creations into other performers via a script. By writing the text and giving voice to it himself, Kalup ensured that the performances grow directly out of the author's voice, his audible voice. These pieces are not attempts to mimic established modes of entertainment, they are using those modes and transforming them into a personalized presentation. The tension in Kalup's videos is between the artificial and the personal. The lip-synching distances the characters from reality, almost like a cartoon effect, where the actors are akin to drawn animation that are given voice separate from their visual manifestations. The dislocation of performer and voice creates gaps within the performances that make them both ironic and more essential and heartfelt.

Because the DIY aesthetic is so premeditated, Kalup himself is bared: we see and feel him doing everything. And because he is not trying to make the videos pass for real soap operas, he can cut to the essence of the genre: the need for love, success, artistic expression, and acceptance. This is not the real soap world, it is the world of Kalup's emotions and desires exploded and crafted and heightened into art. The approach allows him to be naked because he has harnessed the genre and molded it to his needs."

Selected solo exhibitions include Studio Museum of Harlem (NY), Berkeley Art Museum (CA), P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center (NY) and Taxter and Spegemann (NY). Selected group exhibitions include The Garage(Moscow), Whitney Museum (NY), MOMA (NY) and MASSMoCA(MA). Kalup Linzy's work has been reviewed and profiled in The New Yorker, NY Times, Wall Street Journal, Frieze, Art Forum, BOMB, Art Papers, V Magazine, NY Times and Vanity Fair.