

Flexing Muscles

Video Work from Mexico by Charles Fairbanks

3 April – 1 May, 2010

Exhibition Public Reception: Saturday 3 April from 6 to 10pm
Screenings at 7 and 8:30pm

Artist's talk and gallery tour: Sunday April 18 at 6pm

Background:

Flexing Muscles is a video exhibition by photographer, filmmaker and wrestler Charles Fairbanks. The exhibition features material shot in Mexico City and Chiapas, where Fairbanks learned the art of Lucha Libre (Mexico's acrobatic masked wrestling) and got to know many active and former participants. Fighting as El Gato Tuerto (The One-Eyed Cat), and sometimes filming with a camera built into his mask, the artist combines material filmed inside and outside the arena to capture the sensual experience of this physical drama and create a nuanced and reflective examination of how Lucha Libre's exaggerated postures relate to the texture and toil of everyday life.

Biography

Fairbanks grew up in rural Nebraska. He began photographing Mexican Lucha Libre in 2001, wrestling as El Gato Tuerto in 2004 and filming with a camera built into his mask in 2009. He recently studied with Werner Herzog at the first Rogue Film School and will receive his MFA from the University of Michigan in 2010. Additionally, Fairbanks trains Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and is the wrestling coach for the cast of Trafford Tanzi, a play showing at Ann Arbor's Arthur Miller Theatre in early April.