

# National

Maria Gaspar, Mathew Paul Jinks, Rebecca Mir, Irene Pérez,  
Allison Yasukawa, and Adam Farcus

curated by Adam Farcus



*The culture that's going to survive in the future is the culture that you can carry around in your head.*

Nam June Paik

A group of people who share a common identity and ancestry are designated members of a nation. This national identity is defined and often re-defined by its members. Nations are frequently identified by a variety of prescribed demarcations including country (Japan), state (Catalonia), and region (Punjab). The people of a nation leave their marks on it; altering the landscape and constructing a national identity. In a similar manner, the cultural markers of peoples' homelands shape their personal identities. Our current climate of globalization, marked by migration flows, uproots people and their identities. This physical displacement can call attention to societal norms that influence one's actions and memories years later. It is up to each individual to respond to, accept, forget, ignore, or embrace what is carried from place to place. Within the development of self, a small personal event may leave a lasting impression, while greater cultural stereotypes could be avoided altogether.

The five artists in this exhibition explore nationality through personal experience and related cultural issues. In a personal and nostalgic gesture, Irene Pérez's *Untitled (el Charco) II, 2010* measures the distance between Spain and the US. El charco, translated as "the pond" in English, is made from an altered world map. To ask for a new understanding of colonialism, Mathew Paul Jinks addresses the complex relationship between England, India, and the US by creating a narrative that references the 1951 film "The Man in the White Suit" and utilizes excerpts from theorist Homi K. Bhabha's book, "The Location of Culture." Rebecca Mir employs nautical flag semiology to create a self defined exploration of one. Surprisingly idiosyncratic, Allison Yasukawa's work attends to familial traits that cross and mix the national identities of Japan and the US. In *Home*, Adam Farcus returns to his childhood home town in search of an explanation of what home is now that he lives in Chicago. Maria Gaspar constructs a delineated location in the gallery, titled *Brown Out*, that confront racially charged responses to Hispanic culture.

Maria Gaspar resides in her home town, Chicago, IL. Mathew Paul Jinks is a US citizen and British expatriate. Rebecca Mir is a Chicagoan by way of Palmer, Alaska and Maine. Irene Perez recently moved back to Barcelona, Spain, after ten years in the US. Allison Yasukawa was raised in Wisconsin and is of Japanese descent. Adam Farcus grew up in white middle-class rural Illinois and currently resides in Chicago.

-Adam Farcus, 2010



**Maria Gaspar**  
*Brown Out*  
latex paint on wall  
2010



**Mathew Paul Jinks**

*The Queen's Tailor*

video stills (HD video, 13 minutes)

2009



**Mathew Paul Jinks**

*White Suit*

cotton blend, hand tailored in India

2009





**Rebecca Mir**

*Flag for the Nation of Rubaccaquon*

green, silver, and purple fabric, flag pole, and flag mount

2010



Irene Pérez  
*Untitled (el Charco)II, 2010*  
collage on watercolor paper  
2010



Allison Yasukawa

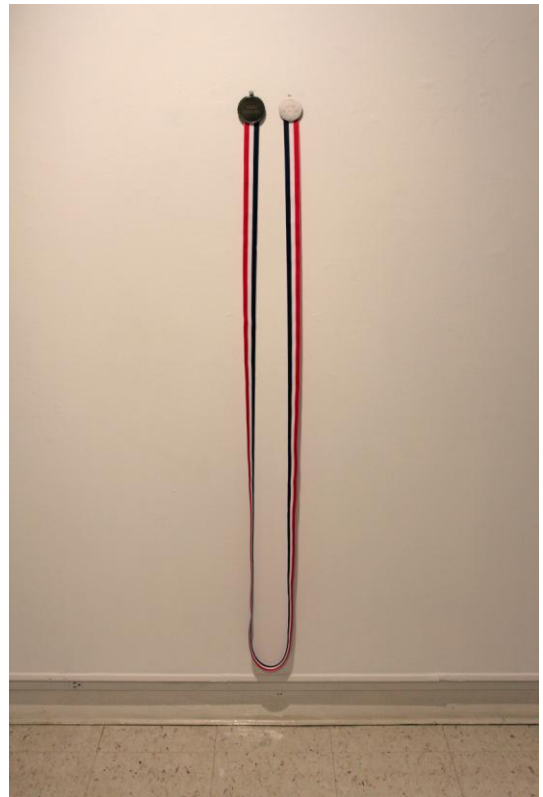
*Eclipsing a Sun*

ladder, light, thread, altered Japanese flag, daughter (absent)

2010



**Allison Yasukawa**  
*CHAMPION/CHAMPAAN*  
mall walking medals, ribbon  
2010





**Allison Yasukawa**

*How Ji-chan Parks His Buick La Sabre*

installation space, car stop: tennis ball, tape, string, hook, wood  
2010



**Adam Farcus**

*Home* (detail of *Soldier Field* above)  
postcards, postcard rack, laminated paper  
2009-2010

With a map of the artist's childhood home centered over his Chicago apartment, Adam Farcus located and photographed Chicago locations within and near Coal City, Illinois.





Installation at University Galleries

[left to right] Allison Yasukawa, Rebecca Mir, Mathew Paul Jinks, Adam Farcus



Installation at University Galleries  
Maria Gaspar and Rebecca Mir



Installation at University Galleries  
[left to right] Rebecca Mir, Allison Yasukawa, Maria Gaspar