DIARCHIE

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HD Video. 5’45’’
Production
UQÀM / Chinampa.
Acquired for the FRAC Occitanie collection.

Diarchy names a political structure in which power is shared between two equal forces.
Diarchie is a two-channel synchronized multimedia installation conceived as a collaboration between Vir Andres Hera and Gilbert Laumord. The work unfolds through voice, presence and rhythm, shaped collectively rather than interpreted.

The textual material brings into resonance writings by Maryse Condé and Carmen Boullosa, whose texts are activated not as references but as living matter. Their words circulate, overlap and sometimes diverge, producing a polyphonic space rather than a linear narrative.

The spoken texts are punctuated by music: a Guadeloupean children’s comptine and a song by José José. These moments shift the work toward oral transmission and popular memory, where affect, nostalgia and collectivity exceed the written archive.

Diarchie constructs an imaginary bridge between different but connected histories of erasure: Afro-Mexican presence and Caribbean Black memory. The installation does not seek equivalence or synthesis, but coexistence, allowing tensions, gaps and echoes to remain audible.

The spatial dispositif invites viewers to sit on the ground, forming a circle reminiscent of Gwoka gatherings. In near darkness, the exhibition space dissolves, giving way to an environment of listening. Literature, song and silence operate as shared time.

Diarchie approaches memory as something co-produced: through bodies, voices, and relations. By placing Mexican historiographical narratives in direct contact with French-speaking colonial histories, the work opens a space where memory is negotiated, transmitted and transformed.

DIARCHIE. INSTALLATION VIEW ON UNIVERSITÉ DU QUEBEC À MONTREAL. 2018

FEATURING
Gilbert Laumord.

TEXTS
Maryse Condé – I, Tituba: Black Witch of Salem
Carmen Boullosa – Azúcar Negro

ASSISTANT
Florence Jacob