

**I AM THE SAME,  
I AM ALWAYS CHANGING**

---

NOV 7-22, 2022

RBC MEDIA GALLERY

VANCOUVER, BC

AN INSTALLATION BY CELINA DE LEON

***I am the same, I am always changing***  
**Celina de Leon**  
**November 7-14, 2022**  
**Opening Reception: November 8 at 6pm**

For further information please contact:  
celinadeleon20@gmail.com or  
animatematerials@gmail.com

Celina de Leon's *I am the same, I am always changing* frames the artist as a shapeshifter who endures through continuous transformation. The multiscreen installation animates the artist's figure in cycles of dressing and undressing, hinting at the possibility of intimacy, yet always denying the viewer a fixed position or steady gaze. A triad of plexiglass panels catch projected moving images to offer three variations on a sequence of gestures, shifting between photographic figuration and graphic abstraction.

The installation's dual title is also an apt description for the endurance and transformation of feminist cinema through decades of ongoing and mutating misogynist violence. De Leon's images recall the female nudes in motion that so preoccupied European modernists, but here the artist finds strategies to veil the body and evade visual capture. These strategies carry forward the lineage of feminist avant-garde artists, who've activated their own body to confront visual power structures. Ana Mendieta is a formative influence on this work, particularly Mendieta's glass-on-body imprints and silueta film series. Subtler cues evoke Yoko Ono's early performances and film self-portraits by TJ Cuthand. De Leon similarly plays with transparency and opacity to entice and refract the spectator's glimpses of her figure. Yet where other feminist body artists tend to position the viewer as a stranger or voyeur, de Leon establishes a more ambiguous relationship to the screen. The three panels invite visitors into a closer embrace, their bodily orientation and cast shadows implicated in a glowing arrangement of glass and light. The effect may suggest a dressing room, a screening booth, or a different site of mediated self-exposure.

Text by Alla Gadassik

**Celina de Leon** is a Filipina-American experimental filmmaker currently residing on Unceded Coast Salish Territories known as Vancouver, BC. She often centers themes of autonomy while exploring the hybridity of digital and analogue mediums. Her thesis film, *My Fantasies Keep me up at Nite*, won the VIVO Media Arts Award and was nominated for the ECU President's Media Award and Chancellor's Award. She is the co-founder of a recurring experimental film program called, XINEMA (with VIFF) and currently works as a research assistant for the Animate Materials Workshop and Ruth Beer.

RBC Media Gallery  
Emily Carr University of Art + Design  
520 E 1st Avenue, Vancouver, BC  
V5T 0H2



**ANIMATE  
MATERIALS  
WORKSHOP**



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

**Canada**

Image: Celina de Leon, still from *I am the same, I am always changing*, 2020, digital, 50 secs.  
Courtesy of the Artist.