

Born into maternity: Carlos Saladén-Vargas 'Untitled (nacer a la maternidad)'

When a woman is born into maternity she travels to another world, she becomes alien to her surroundings, lives for her guts, gets possessed by a vital energy that blows away any human reasoning. She rips, opens, expands because she is giving life and gives it all, pure and absolute instinct.

Is going back to the origin and the essential, is answering to a genetic code that makes a woman give birth, and that is the reason why a woman that goes through this, wakes up and shouts: 'it is our labour!' without giving importance to medical intervention, health conditions, staring eyes, cold artificial lights or even a camera.

In that way Saladen-Vargas' wife is saying: when you are giving birth there is no shame because the soul is naked, the body is more than just the body, it liberates itself from vanity. That is why we cannot see in Adriana's face the blood-bath that Carlos' camera captures, that, the roughness, really matters little.

Those who are not going through the efforts of childbirth, the spectators, have a different look in their eyes, a foreign look, from far, they do not understand because they can only see the obvious, the shocking, the weird, the grotesque?

The first experience with the baby is the continuation of the mystery of being born into maternity. Touched by hormones, the hormones of love, she looks plenty and deeply into that creature that came from her inside, mother and child, out of the uterus, they are still connected.

We have now this image, this photograph, in front of us as a gift written in an universal language in honour to Sofia, their child. An instant, a frozen moment where we can appreciate what is lived, we see a mother being born with all her braveness and at the same time welcoming her daughter to this part of the world.

- Claudia Rodriguez Gilly, *Caracas, Spring 2012*