Ali Prosch - proposal for metro pcs

Proposed dates: April or May to allow time for travel, final production and hopefully resource some grant money.

My proposed project consists of an installation, video, drawings and a series of film screenings that are shaped by my recent travels between Los Angeles and south Florida to care for my mother, who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s.

*Grow Room* will represent my recent intensive experiences with plant life. I’ve been witnessing my mother – a woman who has had a green thumb my entire life – hack her beautiful garden into pieces since diagnosed with this disease. Each time I visit, the garden appears smaller and more eviscerated. I was raised in a tropical region; grew up climbing trees, gardening, playing in lakes, etc. As an artist who investigates issues of gender, I often play with questions of what’s natural. Are women born innately nurturing? What do harmony and nature have to do with each other, given that at times nature can be so devastatingly destructive? To give form to these questions and experiences, I would love to create an environment at metro pcs that consists of a dense tableaux of botanical life. I envision compacting the space with a variety of plants and flowers and punctuating it with other artworks.

A central component of the project is a video that consists of a decadent black-on-black still life containing a black glitter skull with flashing LED eyeballs, a black unicorn, a black feather wig, black house plants, a ream of black paper, a cup with black pencils, and other baroque and banal objects. This “still” image will be inter-spliced with moving shots of a person travelling through a colorful field of flowers; slow pans of my mother’s hacked garden (possibly shots of her in action); and a group of dancers performing a choreographed piece that oscillates between pedestrian and flamboyant motions. The video will loop on a large HD flat screen mounted on the floor and have a sound component. Ideally the monitor will not be visible when first entering the space, as it will be obstructed by the density of the plants and be a surprise encounter for the viewer. The monitor will also function as a theatrical lighting tool to backlight the indoor garden.

A third element of this project involves a series of small, meticulous drawings of gardens and flowers. From stinking corpse lilies and forget-me-nots to baby’s tears and gardens at night. Drawings will be framed and line one wall of the space. Lighting for these pieces TBD.

The film screenings portion of this proposal involves a collaboration between Elleni Sclavenitis and myself. For the past few months she and I have been brainstorming about creating a new type of film festival for Los Angeles. We would love to screen a film at metro pcs each Saturday or Sunday throughout the run of this show. Films and videos will be focused on the theme of memory. Space will be limited given that the seats will be scattered amongst the garden installation. One of the screenings will include a compilation of films and videos by local artists in both Los Angeles and Miami.

Note: These pieces are all currently a work in progress. There’s a good chance that another video will be added. Images coming soon and a text will be written to supplement the show.

Working title: Grow Room