

(January 22 – 31)

2— The Front Room

XAVIER CHA



Xavier Cha's conceptual and performance-based work revolves around systems of social exchange and hierarchies of space (both physical and psychological). Her performances, objects, and videos subtly distort these ideologies by re-contextualizing culture, desire, the individual, and community. A frequent collaborator, Xavier has invited dancers, musicians, and mystics—among many others—not only to participate in her projects, but also to become the protagonists of the work.

Cha inaugurates this season's Front Room. On Opening Night, and at random times throughout the following week, she has hired a series of local performers to enter the space, stand behind a large, freestanding two-way mirror and change from their street clothes into a clown's uniform and makeup. Visitors witness this transformation from art space to voyeuristic clown factory, as each clown exits The Front Room to mingle casually in the museum. Conjuring notions of entertainment and spectatorship, as well as the role and expectations of the artist, Cha delivers a revealing portrait of disguise.

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Xavier Cha was born in 1980 in Los Angeles, and she currently lives and works in New York. She has stages performances and presented exhibitions in New York and Los Angeles and throughout the US, including Sculpture Center, Long Island City; Asia Society, New York; Houston Art Museum; Berkeley Art Museum; and the Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles; among others.

Image:

Two-Way Mirror, 2009

4 x 8 feet acrylic two-way mirror, aluminum
frame, professional clowns,

Courtesy of the artist and Taxter & Spengemann,
New York

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