

COMPANY

FELIPE MERES

Fsision

January 29 - February 28

Opening Reception: January 29, 6 - 8pm

Company Gallery is pleased to present the first New York solo exhibition by Felipe Meres (b. 1988, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). A play on the term fission (the process by which certain organisms reproduce asexually), Meres' *Fsision* considers the splits and entanglements—sexually, imagistically, and materially—that define predominant conceptions of nature and, by extension, inform how we make sense of ourselves.

In his film *Fsision*, 2015, Meres analyzes the life of microscopic planarians (hermaphroditic flatworms with an unusual ability to regenerate lost body parts and to divide themselves into differentiated worms) as a perspective for reproduction and gender beyond the anthropocentric view. In the film, the planarians drift in a petri dish, rubbing against glass and one another, bathed in varying light sources that diffract the visual contours of the space in which they exist, altering our perception of their size and location. Shot at a laboratory at the New School, Meres' *Fsision* is a quiet and complex essay into the production of difference—and the notion of individuality as it forms in an alien territory that nevertheless closely resembles ours. In reproducing by splitting into two or many, planarians offer alternative views to human conceptions of identity as well as assumptions about originality and authenticity. This inquiry is extended in his series of silicone sculptures that hang from the ceiling and refer, in their torqued, elongated form, to the bodies of mutating planarians. Cast with synthetic testosterone and performance enhancing supplements designed to transform the human body, the works are draped on hardware extended from the ceiling and extend the muscle-less and one-dimensional planarian form to a fleshy manifold state.

A series of large photographs included in the exhibition continue Meres' inquiry on representations of nature and scientific imagery. The photos—taken in the flooded forest of the Amazon and the geothermal Hveragerði region of Iceland—glisten and shimmer with wet life, the exact dimensions and features of which are altered and obscured. Printed and mounted on metallic surfaces, the works draw on the aesthetics of scientific authority and reconsider the objective quality of detached observation.

Felipe Meres is an artist who lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. He was recently selected to participate in the Grants & Commissions Program of the Cisneros-Fontanals Art Foundation and will exhibit newly commissioned pieces at CIFO Art Space, Miami (September, 2016). He had a solo show at Galeria Ibeu, Rio de Janeiro (2013) and has participated in numerous group shows in venues such as Lisa Cooley, New York (2016); Luciana Caravello, Rio de Janeiro (2014) and Casa das Caldeiras, São Paulo (2013). He was an artist in residency at SÍM in Reykjavik, Iceland (2012) and participated in Escola de Verão, Capacete (2012). He holds an MFA from the Milton Avery School of the Arts at Bard College and a BFA from Fundação Armando Álvares Penteado, São Paulo. He is a recipient of the 10th Tom of Finland Foundation Emerging Artist Grand Prize.