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Finding the Surface

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Rafaella Suarez

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I have been thinking a lot about cycles. A cycle is a series of events that regularly repeat in the same order. Cycles can sometimes be interrupted by the present or the past. Events that I thought I had forgotten but suddenly come back vividly with just a simple sound, smell, word and/or other memory activators. Sometimes these experiences, as clear as they are in my mind, can be difficult to verbalize. I'm curious about that particular moment where my body is physically and mentally present but part of my consciousness can split and transport me somewhere else, to a memory or even a fictitious place.

"Finding the Surface" explores and embodies my personal remembrances and observations of water, particularly water in pools. I find the relationship of pool structures and water fascinating. The architecture of pools is often hard edged and geometric while water is a fluid and formless, an organic substance that takes the shape of whatever contains it. I am drawn to that paradox. Rather than pulling them apart because of their conflicting existences, they create a space that's cohesive but inexplicable, a space that's both reciprocally intertwined and interdependent.

My installation serves as a reminder of the motion and floatability that exists in water. I'm interested in objects entering the surface of the water, and the way they find themselves rising back to the surface according to their buoyance. *"Finding the Surface"* explores buoyance outside of a literal body of water, connecting it to different aspects such as light, air or language. Within the space, the materials used for the installation create layers of subtle conflict that make up an illogical space that's difficult to literalize.

My work is set up within the idea of creating a conflicting yet cohesive space. Visually, corporally and conceptually. It creates experiences that are disorienting. Towels are recognizable objects that keep a connection with the literal world, while the blue lights and the scent of chlorine create an unfamiliar place. Together, these elements spark open and ambiguous associations for whom perceives it.

The monotony and goal oriented behavior of everyday life can sometimes keep me from acknowledging these brief moments when my mind transports me into a recreational place. This installation has an anti-gravity component that relates to the suspension of literal existence, making room for a less demanding agenda while inducing memories and multiple associations.

Rafaella Suarez