

KATE WERBLE GALLERY

83 VANDAM STREET NEW YORK, NY 10013

MARIA DE VICTORIA

DAY: LABOR

JANUARY 16, 2016



On Saturday, January 16th, Maria De Victoria's new performance work *Day: Labor* will debut at the gallery from 11 AM until 6 PM.

Day: Labor addresses the complicated relationship between labor and immigration as it particularly relates to De Victoria's personal experience as an immigrant to the United States. In this performance, De Victoria will work with 4 day laborers, hired at random from a street corner in New York City. Each laborer will be presented with a contract offering them payment in exchange for a complete 8-hour day of work. Their compensation will be based on De Victoria's day rate in her current position as a freelance video editor; this amount, \$650.00. Once the contracts have been signed, De Victoria and the 4 workers will sit together in the gallery sorting through large bags of rice and beans, a staple commodity indicative of Latin America, where De Victoria and the other day laborers are from. The *work* becomes a performance that is tedious, meditative, formal and symbolic. At 4:30 PM, the rice and beans will be cooked collectively and served to anyone present in the gallery.

De Victoria combines her personal experience as a former immigrant and housecleaner with her cultural observations of daily life in the United States. She often incorporates rituals surrounding the preparation of meals within her projects, using food and its preparation as metaphors for equality. *Day: Labor* seeks to emphasize the presence of immigrants in the United States, and specifically in New York City, by creating visibility to undocumented laborers.

Maria De Victoria (b. 1980 in Lima, Peru) immigrated to Miami, FL in the early 1990's. She originally studied film and worked in film production before deciding to pursue video art, performance, installation, and visual art in 2010. Her work has been included in group shows at the Queens Museum (New York), and at Brooklyn Fireproof (New York). She currently lives and works in New York City.