Janaina Tschäpe

Living Room (“100 Little Deaths”)

Moais (“100 Little Deaths”)
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Dead to the World

For her “100 Little Deaths” series, German-born Janaina Tschäpe (b. 1973) invented episodes of her own demise. Inserting her body into landscapes and interiors across the globe, she linked herself with specific sites while isolating herself from other people.

Take a closer look

Each photograph in this series vacillates between reality and fantasy, comedy and tragedy. Contemplating individual works, we seek the prone protagonist and craft her narrative. Considered together, the images function as the artist’s visual diary, recording her connection to various places.

Something to talk about

How does Tschäpe’s body interact with and change each location? Why might an artist elect to use her own likeness instead of a model’s?

Who knew?

The artist’s first name refers to the Afro-Brazilian queen of the ocean and goddess of the sea. Paying homage to her namesake, some of Tschäpe’s “deaths” occur in or near water.

Janaina Tschäpe, Living Room (“100 Little Deaths”), 2002; Chromogenic color print; 31 x 47 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Heather and Tony Podesta Collection; © Janaina Tschäpe

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