

BROOKLYN

Smack Mellon: "Ron Baron: Beyond-Beyond" & "Karina Aguilera Skvirsky: The Perilous Journey of María Rosa Palacios"

September 23 through November 5, 2017

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 23 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Smack Mellon will present "Ron Baron: Beyond-Beyond" and "Karina Aguilera Skvirsky: The Perilous Journey of María Rosa Palacios," two exhibitions that delve into the personal and collective memory.

Ron Baron's (<https://www.ronbaron.net>) "Beyond-Beyond" features nearly 100 pairs of life-cast ceramic shoes. Poetic and ghostly, the adult- and child-size shoes are left in an unglazed white and configured on the gallery floor, emphasizing the vastness of the space. Having suffered a profound loss in his family, Baron's ceramic shoes are signifiers of absence and the layered meaning behind a person's life and soul, as well as a tribute to grief and loss. There will be a blues performance and conversation with Ron Baron, Steven Ellis and Scott Williams on Thursday, October 5 from 6 to 8 p.m.



"Beyond-Beyond" by Ron Baron. Courtesy Smack Mellon.

Karina Aguilera Skvirsky's (<http://www.karinaskvirsky.com>) "The Perilous Journey of María Rosa Palacios" is a half-hour performance-based film that documents Skvirsky's re-creation of her great-grandmother's 1906 journey from Ecuador's Chota highlands to the coastal town of Guayaquil. Skvirsky's grandmother, María Rosa Palacios, an Afro-Ecuadorian migrant worker, was one of the last workers to travel by foot and mule before the railroad was completed in 1908. Re-created with the help of a five-person film crew, the hybrid documentary-fictional film combines improvisational performances with interviews and research. Exploring identity, representation and ever-shifting boundaries of place and nationhood, the film shows how changes through time and geopolitical contexts can influence a person's roots to a specific place.



"The Perilous Journey of María Rosa Palacios" by Karina Aguilera Skvirsky. Courtesy Smack Mellon.