

*How to read a ( )* at Nube Gallery includes two new multi-channel video installations by Claudia Joskowicz (*Parallels* and *La niña de sus ojos* - both 2022) that use the city of El Alto, Bolivia as a visual illustration of the unprecedented economic growth that the Morales era (2005-19) brought to the country. An era which has also seen an unprecedented increase in corruption, drug trafficking, and femicide.

*Parallels* (2022) records an indigenous women's wrestling show held in a Cholet\*, a popular tourist event in the city of El Alto. Focusing on the audience and the building's interiors over the show, it reflects on the superficial image of female empowerment that the Bolivian government has exported abroad - with a nod to Guy Debord's Situationist film *In Girum Imus Nocte et Consumimur Igne: un film* (1978) of which Debord wrote: "the theme of the film is not the spectacle but real life."

*La niña de sus ojos* (2022) appropriates fragments of the Bolivian folk novel of the same name (Antonio Díaz Villamil, La Paz 1948) that was an important part of the "mestizaje" discourse (a problematic social project that sought to abolish the country's racial and economic split creating a mestizo nation with economic and racial integration) in the period immediately preceding the 1952 revolution (a revolution that brought universal suffrage to Bolivia). The novel reflects the misogynistic lens that has been, and still is, used to impart democratic projects in Bolivia. Using the descriptions of the novel's main characters, Domi Perales and her mother Saturnina, and footage of the contemporary city of El Alto, this work places the female stereotypes described in the book in the realistic context of contemporary El Alto.

\**Cholet* is a term derived from the words *chalet* and *chola* [sometimes derogatory term for an indigenous woman]. Cholets have become ubiquitous throughout the city of El Alto since the late 2000's.

