

CLIFTON BENEVENTO

LOCATION: 515 BROADWAY NEW YORK NY 10012 PHONE: 212 431 6325 FAX: 212 334 4703
EMAIL: INFO@CLIFTONBENEVENTO.COM WEBSITE: WWW.CLIFTONBENEVENTO.COM

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The Fist is Still Up



In conjunction with his month-long residency at The New Museum, Wu Tsang's New York solo debut is showing at Clifton Benevento. The exhibit features work based on Tsang's experiences with the Silver Platter, a Los Angeles bar that serves a community of predominately trans Latina women, and where Tsang also co-organized the performance night/party Wildness. He plans to release a feature film by the same name documenting the party.

The exhibition uses the decorative elements of a bar to create a space that both physically recalls the Silver Platter and constitute a queer space on it's own. A gold lame curtain masks the white walls of the gallery space, a long bar circles a tv

monitor, disrupting the typical art viewing experience in favor of one that brings the viewer into context. Perhaps the installation's most striking feature is the large blue neon sign which illuminates the space, altering the bar's name from the "Silver Platter" to "The Fist Is Still Up." By recreating and reclaiming the sign the artist both transposes the architecture of the space once again on to the gallery, as well as acknowledges the revolutionary nature of a queer-trans space and life, while giving a nod to the intersection of politics and pleasure.

The main focus of the exhibit is the video piece *Damelo Todo (Give Me Everything)*. Based on a short story of the same name by Raquel Gutierrez, the video combines documentary footage and experimental narrative to tell the story of a young Salvadorian refugee who finds community and support in the bar.

You can see a schedule of related events going on at the New Museum [here](#).

Wu Tsang is on view through August 5 at Clifton Benevento, 515 Broadway, NYC.



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