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21



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NEW YORK LATINO FILM FESTIVAL

# NYMPH

A film by María del Mar Rosario



## **Nymph**

Written and Directed by María del Mar Rosario

### **Director's statement**

In my work, I often reflect on the construction of gender of which I was part during my early 20's working as a fashion model. From my experience dressing up as standard depictions of womanhood I often wore a custom that felt debilitating. From that most vulnerable wound of my femininity is where I informed my work as a filmmaker. I explore these mutations of female identity that have morphed into visual pleasure preceded by a history of men being the defining voice of beauty, and women the object of it.

During my research for, *Nymph* (2020), I met with women who work as performers on a peep booth in a sex shop in Manhattan. I wrote a fictional narrative informed by my impressions and the experiences shared with them. The story is told from the perception of Angelica, a young woman who wants to feel, but cannot escape having to be constantly subjected to become the object of pleasure. While I was writing the film, I was inspired by the story of Medusa, who would turn the men who looked at her into stone. But Angelica is not a Gorgon. She struggles with becoming that sexual fantasy men see in her. In this film, Angelica's agency and power are contested through her sight.

## Director's Bio

María del Mar Rosario is an artist from Puerto Rico. Her work, which traverses documentary and fiction film, she explores themes at the intersection of gender and colonialism. A graduate from Columbia University, where she double-majored in Creative Writing and Film Studies. She ultimately completed her graduate degree at Escuela Internacional de Cine y Television in San Antonio de Los Baños, Cuba, specializing in documentary directing. Her thesis short, ***La Bonita***, looks closely at painful procedures to unmask the violence of normative feminine standards of beauty.

Her short films have been projected in theaters and festivals such as Metrograph (NYC), The Cinémathèque Française (Paris) and IDFA (Amsterdam), among others. She is part of the New LatinX Art Collective and the Brooklyn Filmmakers Collective, as well as a mentee of the 2020-2021 Independent Study Program of the Contemporary Museum of San Juan while developing her debut film ***Ponche Colonial***. María del Mar holds an MFA from the City University of New York. She lives in Harlem, and hopes to expand her work to her native Puerto Rico where she is developing an episodic series based on her short film, ***Nymph***.

**Country:** Puerto Rico, Cuba, United States

**Contact:** Maria del Mar Rosario. mariadelmar.rosario@gmail.com

**Year:** 2020

**Format:** Digital

**Running Time:** 17 min

**Genre:** Drama

**Rating:** R

**Language:** Spanish and English