

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2010 INTERVIEW 'Transformer'

Visual artist detached from the work, master of teaching models in the art of walking the catwalk, Woman when he wanted, Chongo to avoid danger; Triton or Sirene when the future of his footprint throws him into the sea. Ariel Gorostidi, aka 'La Vogue', boasts of all that he's been and swears that it can be much more.

By Juan Tauil

Translation into English by: Victoria Colmegna

Who are you?

-I'm Ariel Eugenio Gorostidi. I won the "La Vogue" nickname in the first parade I did with Charly Grilli ... it was the beginning of the '90s, and I was dancing in 'Bunker' the song "Deep in Vogue" by Malcolm McLaren, which Madonna later copied and "Vogue" came out. Christian Banchig saw me and invited me to a casting. As u may imagine, I mega produced/crossdressed myself, I was 18 years old. When I arrived there Mariana Arias, Andrea Frigerio, Roxana Harris (former arg. models) where there... I was opening the show with a T-shirt of Marilyn by Warhol and i marked all the choreography. There 'La Grilli' baptized me.

How are you like?

-Very sensitive and my life is a constant struggle not to get pigeonholed in anything. I can teach human survival, I mutated, i mute all the time. I can be gay, sissy, manly ... like everyone, i mute to survive. Just as there are men who put on a suit to go to work and they make themselves fit for that and later you can see them having sex with a trans, then dressed as a mechanic who likes to have a French key down he's ass. We all mutate all the time. They are disguises to match the moral saint. I am a woman operated on as a man. At one point I injected hormones to know how a woman feels. At one time I was like a bitch in heat.

What characteristics of each gender do you think you have?

-The woman is more exquisite than the man: if two men like themselves they go and fuck under a bridge, instead the woman needs a ritual. I remember myself super cute with a row of chongos behind me. I was possessed by a woman, and I left them there all hysterical. When I'm fucking I'm more animal, carnivorous. I had relationships with a girl when I was doing Transformism in Club Poodle. She was gay. I was super assumed from the age of 15 and never would have imagined that I was going to be fucking for eight months with a girl. I liked that she was like a Kate Moss man. One mutates, one changes roles, tastes. I do not agree with being enslaved with anything. One comes to learn in this life cycle what we need. In terms of work, for example I can paint a wall, make a work of art and I can teach future models to walk on a catwalk as I did in the agency of Dotto and Piñeiro models.

How did you end up intervening in the art of Miranda's (electropop band) new album?

-Alejandro Ros invited me to do the photos in Marcelo Setton's studio. I'm also a friend of Lolo, Roho's ... I think it all came out of the show I did at Miau Miau (former art gallery).

Do you believe it?

-To say that I taught walking to top models is a type of oral anguish. To say something. I also shit with smell, I throw farts, I have my blood taken, I cook a fried egg ... everything has a value. I

have helped, I have given, I have taken... ... They even made a short film about an anecdote of mine when I was 15 years old dressed as a girl - Luján they called me - I got on the train that went from Palomar to San Miguel and stayed in the last van. Imagine at that age, it was like a ham in the middle of a great feast. Enrico Kahn won the Tribeca scholarship with that short film. It came out in La Nación ...

Name yourself, please, beyond your name.

-Marvelous, charming, understanding. I can forgive, I am human, Metal dog: I bark but I don't bite, I learned good and bad things. The worst slavery is trying to be a being of light in nirvana, it is impossible. I expose myself.

How is your family?

-I was orphaned 13 years ago. My dad shot himself in the head, my mother left a month later with another guy. I had no choice but to come and live alone from Castelar to the Capital at 18 years old. I'm a western girl, just like you see me. The little money that came to me was always for the aesthetics. I'm addicted to aesthetics. I am aware that my body will disappear at some point, that's why I go by leaving children around. My works, my drawings, are my children. Another gift that I have is that I make people laugh. I lift up a party, my soul is like that. When I was two years old, I used to say that I was a baby girl and they cut my hair as if I had a pot on my head. If my parents had listened to me and sent me to dance classes with my sister I'm sure that I would be dancing in the American Ballet. "Cariiiiisimaaa" (Expensiiiveee)

How is your relationship with substances?

-A struggle. I have been without consuming years ... they are cycles. It is good to be aware that situations do not become irreversible. I enter and leave. I need light and darkness. I need to get into a porn theater, I need to experience an atmosphere of David Lynch and then read Siddhartha from Hesse on a sunny day in the countryside. They are different planes. At 38, I do not attach myself to anything. when I die, I'm not going to take my shoes or my refrigerator ... I started distributing my work, so you would find it if you go to a favella and in the Faena hotel as well.

Is there art in el reviente (trashy partying)?

-I have a collection of images, that's the result of the fact that I'm not inside a corral. That freedom has allowed me to do performances like painting super montada (produced) after much fuss and I also paint clean, without substances. Each situation caused me to make different strokes. The horrible and the beautiful inspire me. I can see beauty in trash and resignify it, like a perforated paper tube that I found in the street and I used to cover all the windows of Cubic Space, for example. I fight against massive beauty, against the lack of personality.

Define freedom, please.

-Wind. It has the power to destroy. Change, drag, twist. Freedom is not to be afraid. Fear paralyzes. Freedom is learning. Fear is noise, pollution, education ... it's not bad, but it slows you down ... anyway everything that is meant to arrive arrives. The fear of what they will say prevents you from overcoming barriers of evolution. You see the people on the street and you realize that they do not relate well to the space: they are all crowded ... just look at the exit of a school for example. All the people in a row, there is no idea of constellation. There are people

who complete their life cycle without expressing what they feel: if not just watch Dennis del Mar never saying i love you to her chongo lover in Broke Back Mountain!

The fact of distributing your work speaks of your relationship with space ...

-Totally, I am very spatial. When one is pigeonholed u dont grow in knowledge. In the space of love I love lovers, touch and go. I have lovers without sex too, people that I love and love me. Friends ... sometimes they make me feel like a virgin. Ay La Vogue, ay, sos divina! It is what it is. Do you have a header phrase? -Yes; Simplicity is elegance. Chanel said it. i heard it once and it has to do with the skin, with the body. The less things one hangs, the more one is displayed.

Do you have marks on your body?

-Oh... I'm very marked! I have the marks of learning. My life is very Tarnation, that movie reminded me of my mother, who took pills for the nerves which made her look up to the ceiling for weeks. That marked me.

What makes you feel full?

-Morning walks through the countryside, communication with the birds. At another time it makes me feel full to take a line and go to a porn cinema. I recommend the Constitución one, which is full of chongos ... butchers of Lanús!

Define homophobia, please

-It does not exist for me. I have chongofobia ... sometimes I think how to go through a path full of chongos ... then I mutate and I become the macho. I'm a fucking mutant. Many told me that I have to sell my genetic code, I am bulletproof. Another phrase that I like is "we are what we want to be" and I fulfill it when I feel like a woman; All the males see me as a woman and if I want to feel like an active chongo I go and fuck all the gay ones ones. The mind allows you to mutate.

Were you near death?

-I wanted to commit suicide one day that was fucked. I cut my veins diagonally. Nothing happened to me, I just wanted to call attention or maybe it was self-destruction linked to an excess of energy that sometimes is without space to expand. It is good to want to die and then want to live. Another phrase that I like is "behaving badly to feel good" (portarse mal para sentirse bien). In general I dont fear death; I am an average Viking, I dress to scare death, the evil spirits. The subject of the hiv, for example, I have friends who died from visual or auditory contamination and social fear rather than the disease itself. I see health as a desire, a toast. The word has a lot of weight. If one saw painted AIDS = HEALTH, it would be different.

How do you see yourself in the future?

-I imagine myself old with seven boobs in my column. I am my own architect, I am a building, a temple.

If you had to take a route, where would you go?

-Route sounds like a routine to me. It has a destiny. I think I'd rather run in a clearing, end up on a cliff, throw myself into the sea and become a mermaid ...