

Jose Dávila
Dan Smith

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Camden Arts Centre London
September 14 to November 11

Jose Dávila's work in Camden Arts Centre's Gallery III is the result of a short on-site residency. The piece is a shamelessly indulgent encounter with the internal and external architectural structure of the room and its elevation over Finchley Road. A scaffolding platform leads out through a large window, around the outside wall, to another window in an adjacent wall. Coloured mesh adorns the structure outside, which maintains a sense of authenticity. This looks and feels like real scaffolding, grimy and slightly wobbly. At certain times the windows are opened, allowing passage along the scaffold. Near the exit point of the platform, an indecipherable floorplan has been sketched on the wall. Opposite this a thick red line has been painted so that it marks out a territory across one wall and onto the floor. Although engaging in itself, the propinquity of this piece to the discourses of social engagement and ethical responsibility suggested by the work of Doris Salcedo and Sophie Ristelhueber is unfortunate. These artists are engaged in an activity that is both politicised and theoretically complex in a way that seems far removed from Dávila's playful approach to construction aesthetics and viewer participation.



Jose Dávila

*Temporality is a
question of survival*
2001