Eyakem Gulilat

*Site Unseen Series, 2013*

Individual pieces are untitled.

At the turn of the 20th century Tulsa Oklahoma was dubbed the “Oil Capital of the world” and the “City of Dreams”. Many came here looking for the opportunity to make money; among these were African Americans coming from southern states where racism was prevalent. They settled in North Tulsa. Their businesses grew, and the area soon became known as Black Wall Street. In 1921 the bloody Tulsa Race Riot broke out, devastating African American communities. More than one thousand homes and businesses were destroyed; credible estimates of deaths range from fifty to three hundred. “It is believed to be the single worst incident of racial violence in American history.” The legacy of this violence continues today to be a sensitive subject that bears commemorating.
Eyakem Gulilat

The Promise Land Series, 2007

Individual pieces are untitled. The Promise Land is the result of my interaction with the people of Boley, Oklahoma. Boley was founded as an all black town in 1903 by African Americans seeking to govern themselves. Mennonites settled in this same area in 1977 after fleeing Mexico during political unrest. This project is a documentation of this rural town, which has held promises for both communities. I began to document the lives of Boley’s inhabitants, visiting schools, churches, local businesses and homes. I found that essentially these two groups remain separate. I am interested in the parallels which have brought both communities to this land at different times in history as well as the difference which keep them separate.

Eyakem Gulilat

Notes written by visitors who attended a 2013 exhibition of the Site Unseen Series.

Eyakem Gulilat

Security Theater Series

Appropriated stills of news and reality TV footage of immigrants and migrants seeking to cross borders.
Independent short films curated from the Oklahoma Cine Latino Film Festival
The OK Cine Latino Film Festival promotes the Latino cultural influence on cinema and has become a showcase for local and international filmmakers with submittals from Mexico, Spain, and South America. The event includes a presentation of short films created by teams of high school students from the Youth Film Workshop.

Selected Films:

- **We Were Kids**- Matias Muñoz Rodriguez, Director
- **The Other Border**- Justin Zimmerman, Director (Only viewable: 4/8, for the panel discussion, & 4/30 for the outdoor screening)
- **Home: Joselyn’s Story**- The Representation Project, Production
- **PRIDE**- Edith Rodriguez, Director
- **¿Como Vuelan Las Flores?**- Roberto Salvador Rodriguez, Director
- **Plane Pretend**- Sharon Arteaga, Director