

Murray Guy

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"White Room"
Murray Guy/White Columns

Paired exhibitions occasion a two-part début for the young Spanish artist. In two videos at Murray Guy, Esquivias narrates, in disarmingly unprofessional fashion, a personal tour through the history of Spain. Her hook is an extended comparison between King Phillip II (1527-1598) and Julio Iglesias—both of whom, after all, have presided over global empires. Phillip's royal symbol was the sun, and Julio is always tan. At White Columns, Esquivias projects "chapters" from her ongoing video series *Reads Like the Paper*, wherein non-sequitur video clips and Internet screen grabs are knitted together by her ingenuous remarks. The look is aggressively down-market, even drab, but the wit sparkles. (Murray Guy, 453 W. 17th St. 212-463-7372; White Columns, 320 W. 13th St. 212-924-4212. Through Feb. 16.)