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MODERN PAINTERS

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"Berlin Biennial"
By Alysia D'Urso



Capturing the everyday, Patricia Esquivias's videos play like fragmented streams of consciousness. The young, New York-based Venezuelan artist jettisons video-editing tactics and instead favors long takes and what might, or might not, be improvisational acting. At the 2008 Berlin Biennial, Esquivias exhibited *Folklore I* (2006), a video that is obliquely about the aftermath of the Spanish civil war. The camera focuses on the artist's hands as they leaf through snapshots, and she tells stories that string together commonplace people and objects juxtaposed against tumultuous times, blurring folklore, tabloid gossip, and textbook history.