

Video as Art

One of the high points of the series is "The Couple in the Cage: A Guatinaui Odyssey," a sly, sophisticated look at a traveling exhibit in which an aboriginal couple from the jungles of South America are caged and put on display. The female member of the Gautinaui tribe wears a baseball cap and Ray-Bans along with her green face paint. The man wears a ski mask made of leopard-skin and seems uncommonly attached to television. Some viewers interviewed while they watch the exhibit think it's a performance piece; some think it's a disgusting, imperialist throwback. All is revealed at the end, but from the start it is apparent that the directors, Coco Fusco and Paula Heredia, have created a deliciously witty satire about cultural stereotyping. "The Couple in the Cage" deftly weaves in the history of such exhibits and creates a playful tone that makes the viewer a conspirator, either with the viewers or the caged couple.