



you know all of this gets flooded with water

2009

Conchitas

Clint Enns

Conchitas (6 minutes), made in collaboration with Alexandra Gelis, presents itself as a diptych. One screen sees Gelis sunbathing while the screen is being partially covered in gummy bears. The second screen shows a landscape partially covered in seashells. One video is shot by Lozano in Canada, the other by Gelis in Panama. The gummy bears are wet and slimy and slide across each as they are being stacked. The seashells are hard and come directly from the land. The real is juxtaposed with the artificial, the natural landscape with its seashells and the beach with its gummy bears. *Conchita* is a diminutive for *concha* which means seashell and is a diminutive for *Concepción*, which refers to the Immaculate Conception, but is also a region of the Chiriquí Province in Panama.

The two worlds are held together with a text that scrolls quickly across the screen. The text “en una conversación no planificada” is from an unplanned conversation between two women, Christina Lomban and Elizabeth Perez, who hunt for seashells and casually discuss their fears including drowning and river snakes, an asthma epidemic in Chiriquí and their family dynamics. One woman states, “The seashells look beautiful when you string them together” to which the other responds, “Yes, I string them together.” Their simple exchange articulates one of the functions of artworks that is too often forgotten, namely, the social function of art making.