



Julia Schlosser, video still, *Letting Theo Out (Garage, 4/30/11, 7:04 to 9:58 AM)*, 2011



Julia Schlosser,
video still, *Untitled (Bathroom, 5/29/11, Noon)*, 2011 (top)
video still, *Untitled (Hallway, 6/13/11, 9:14 AM)*, 2011 (bottom)

Julia Schlosser: Video Installation **California State University, Northridge West Gallery** August 29 to September 24, 2011

Using three life-size video projections and accompanying ambient soundtracks, Julia Schlosser creates an evocative domestic environment inhabited by a group of cats the artist cares for and lives with. The minimal, sometimes distressed setting created by the confines of Schlosser's house and backyard acts as a backdrop to the actions of the cats as they relate to the artist and to each other. In *Untitled (Bathroom, 5/29/11, Noon)* the cats' organic, silhouetted forms on the bathroom windowsill become abstract studies of oscillating positive and negative space. The viewer watches the animals watching, their attention directed by the shifting action of the videos catching their peripheral vision as the action outside the window catches the cats' attention.

The ambiguous, fragmented yet intense action of the cats' play in *Untitled (Hallway, 6/13/11, 9:14 AM)*, reflects the periodic bursts of energy and long periods of stasis that characterize the life of an indoor animal. For *Letting Theo Out (Garage, 4/30/11, 7:04 to 9:58 AM)*, the artist filmed the movement of the shadow of a lemon tree across her garage wall and door. Unknown to the viewer, a homeless "outdoor" cat named Theo is sleeping in the garage for the first part of the film. At a certain point, Schlosser enters the frame to let Theo out of the garage, and she ends filming when the cat leaves the yard. Schlosser's repudiation of the still engrained proscription against the use of pets as "art-worthy" subject matter, allows the viewer to step momentarily inside the world of the cats' experience, viscerally enjoying the actions and sensations of their environment.