

PRESS RELEASE

September 2007



The Baroque Alcove, Can Marqués

ABSENCE OF THE PRESENT

A project connecting future generations with our past

Can Marqués, the romantic stately home in the historic centre of Palma de Mallorca, and one of the city's most loved museums, opens its doors to a selection of some of the most talented young artists to have emerged onto the international art scene in recent years.

Absence of the Present is a curated exhibition of eleven site-specific projects conceived by a new generation of artists who enter into an intimate dialogue with Mallorca's cultural context and artistic heritage through their work.

The project intends to look beyond artistic practices which are currently on show in contemporary art galleries, biennales and art fairs, in order to offer a unique insight into "contemporary art of the future".

TITLE: Absence of the Present

EVENT: Exhibition of 11 young up and coming artists selected from around the world to present a site-specific project in one of Mallorca's most well known stately homes.

VENUE: Can Marqués, C/ Zanglada, 2.A, E – 07001, Palma de Mallorca, España

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS: Albert Pinya (Spain), Annabel Emson (UK), Enric Socias (Spain), Fernando Mesquita (Portugal), Ian Daniel Larsen (USA), Katie Paterson (Scotland), Marenka Gabeler (Holland), Maria Antonia Mir (Spain), Maria Glyka (Greece), Toni Amengual (Spain), Yara El-Sherbini (Egypt-Trinidad-Tobago).

WEBSITE FOR PROJECT: www.canmarquescontemporaneo.net

CURATOR: Nieves Barber

COORDINATOS: espacio ace

PRESS CONFERENCE: Monday 17th 2007 at 12.30 hosted by participating artists and curator

PRIVATE GUIDED VISIT AND COCKTAIL RECEPTION*: Monday 17th 2007 at 19.00

EXHIBITION ENDS: November 2007

MORE INFORMATION: Eva Shakouri at Espacio ACE, Calle Verí 9, Palma de Mallorca 07001 Spain. Tel. 00 34 971 722 364. Email. info@espacioace.com

*Note: For professionals, by invitation only

ABSENCE OF THE PRESENT

Can Marquès, September – November 2007

Absence of the Present is a curated exhibition of eleven site-specific projects by some of the most talented young artists to have emerged onto the international art scene over the past two years.

Each intervention reflects the artistic discourse, thematic preoccupations and visual – acoustic languages of a new generation of artists who enter into an intimate dialogue with Mallorca's cultural context and artistic heritage by engaging with the space through their work.

The exhibition, laden with contemporary concerns and complicity with the house's 700 years of history, offers an array of intense experiences charged with historic references, while intuitively unhinging itself from the work currently on view in art galleries, biennales, art fairs and museums.

Like every generation before them, these artists' search for identity triggers a rupture with the present. This rupture, and the ensuing void, emanates an uncanny sense of *absence*.

Absence of the Present intends to look beyond the artistic practices which are currently on show in contemporary art galleries, biennales and art fairs, in order to home in on the thematic preoccupations, artistic discourse and visual-acoustic languages of a new generation of artists which are emerging onto the international art scene, influencing and giving shape to "contemporary art of the future".

The project is a rare opportunity to become familiar with a new generation of artists in the making.

NOTES ON PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Despite their youth, many of the participating artists have gathered significant acknowledgment and praise within the international art circuit.

International Artists:

Katie Paterson (1981, Scotland) after graduating with distinction from the Slade School of Art, London, Paterson ended her stay at art college, by presenting a project at the 2007 Slade graduate show (members of the audience were able to hear the sound made by a dying glacier via a mobile phone line), which caused sensation among art critics, academics and the media. Articles appeared in *The Scotsman*, 'Artist records coolest sounds' (June 7 2007), *The Guardian*, 'Glacier Death: Callers Take Part in Art' by Maev Kennedy (June 8 2007), *The Times*, 'Did You See?' by Francesca Steele, and 'Access all arias?' by Richard Morrison (June 9 – 10, 2007), *Reuters*, 'Artist Installs Phone Link to Dying Glacier' by Avril Ormsby (June 8 2007). Prior to her meteoric success triggered by her graduate show, Paterson had gathered much recognition through awards and grants, including the *Julian Sullivan Award*, *Dolbey Travel Scholarship*, *Slade Project Award*, and *The Cross Turst* awarded in 2007 to postgraduate students "demonstrating distinction and outstanding merit ... to extend the boundaries of human knowledge". Following Patersons' intervention at Can Marquès, she will be showing in a string of exhibitions programmed for 2007 – 2008 including a project at *Modern Art Oxford* in April 2008.

Fernando Mesquita (1976, Portugal) is one of Portugal's rising stars. He has exhibited extensively within his own country, including the *II Premio de Pintura*,

Ariane de Rothchild and the *V Prémio Escultura, City Desk*, both in 2005. His work has been incorporated into numerous private collections including the private collection of one of Portugal's most important contemporary artists; Pedro Cabrita Reis.

Ian Daniel Larson (1980, USA), a Slade graduate, was one of twenty artists selected by Charles Saatchi as the best up and coming talents to be graduating in 2007. Channel 4 (UK) will be producing a short documentary on his work, while some of the artists production will be on show during Frieze Art Fair in October 2007. Prior to being selected as finalist in the Saatchi/Stuart project, Ian was selected as one of the Bloomberg 2008 New Contemporaries.

Maria Glyka (1973, Greece) is one of the most dynamic young artists in Greece. She has been a member of PLATFORMES since 2003, a collective of arts professionals ranking from musicians to film makers and visual artists, based in Athens who lobby against censorship of the arts in their country. Having completed her MFA painting at the Slade School of Art (London), Glyka has won numerous awards including the *Germaine Muse 2005* award for "Young artist in European Museums", and the Celeste Prize, The Well, London in 2006. She has participated in group shows internationally, including the Jerwood Contemporary Painters at Jerwood Space, London, in 2007.

Marenka Gabeler (1975, Holland), who graduated from MA Painting at the Royal College of Art with distinction, producing a series of works which curators hastened to include in group shows alongside other consolidated artists such as Sarah Lucas, Gavin Turk and Gilbert & George, whom she completed one of her projects with. She has won numerous awards and participated in exhibitions across Europe.

Annabel Emson (1975, UK) is a painter with an interest in memory and "how the sensation of colour, tone and movement in painting can reflect and fold the time of memory, bringing a movement of spatial light and scale awareness ...". She obtained her MFA in painting from the Slade School of Art in 2006, was short listed for the Castellón Museum Painting Prize 2006, and has shown with IBID Projects, London 2007. Emson has been showing parts of her work within the formal structures of the art market since her undergraduate years. In 2004, her work was shown at Art Cologne fair, with thanks to the Gallery Gymurznaska, Zurich.

Yara El-Sherbini (1978, Trinidad-Tobago-Egypt), who graduated from her MA in Fine Art Media from the Slade School of Art in 2005, has recently been commissioned by the Arnolfini (Bristol) and the BBC to tour her latest work, *A Pub Quiz*. These playful critiques on art and life have been hosted in pubs and bars throughout the UK. In 2006, she celebrated her first solo show at La Caja Blanca, with a variety of mixed media work, one of which "A Demonstration" taught the audience how to make carpet bombs blue-peter style. In 2007, Yara's work was included in a number of international group shows, one of which "System Error: War is a force that gives us meaning" at the Palazzo delle Papesse.

Mallorquin artists are:

Enric Socias (1981, Spain), after graduating from the University of Barcelona, Enric Socias participates in several group shows across Spain, and in France. In 2006, he is short listed for the *Art Jove* award. In 2007, Socias participates in numerous group projects including *Cimentiments o no m'asfaltis al respecte*, a highly controversial project which gathered writers, intellectuals, musicians and visual artists, to protest against over-building of coastlines in Spain.

Albert Pinya (1985, Spain) is one of five Mallorcan artists participating. He recently won the *Art Jove* prize for best young artist in the Balearic Region.

Maria Antonia Mir (1977, Spain), is awarded the first prize in the Concours de Pintura Vila de Muro, this year. In 2004, she is selected as one of top emerging artists in Mallorca, participating in the exhibition *Art Emergent a les Illes Balears III*. Her first important succes took place in 2004, when she is shortlisted for the Premio ABC de Pintura y Fotografía, thanks to which she participates in an exhibition at the publications booth in Arco Art Fair.

Toni Amengual (1980, Spain), considera recorrer el camino que separa la fotografía periodística de la fotografía artística, en el año 2005, cuando obtiene el primer premio Art Jove de Baleares en la disciplina de fotografía.

Some images of the work produced by these artists:



Marenka Gabeler (Holland)



Albert Pinya (Spain)



Yara El-Sherbini (Egypt - Trinidad – Tobago)



Katie Paterson (Scotland)



Fernando Mesquita (Portugal)



Ian Daniel Larson (USA)



Maria Glyka (Greece)



Maria Antonia Mir (Spain)



Anabel Emson (UK)

TO OBTAIN HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES,
INTERVIEWS WITH THE ARTISTS OR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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