

BEN MALTZ GALLERY
MEDIA RELEASE

Media contact: Kathy MacPherson, galleryinfo@otis.edu, 310.665.6909. Images available.

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June 22 – July 30, 2005

Standards of Reality: Five Artists from Barcelona

Martí Anson, Carles Congost, Pep Duran, Mabel Palacín, Tere Recarens

A video lounge selected by Ferran Barenblit, Director, Centre d'Art Santa Mònica, Barcelona

In this Los Angeles debut exhibition, the curator reunites the video work of five artists from Barcelona who have exhibited at the Centre d'Art Santa Mònica in Barcelona (CASM) as part of the institution's mission to support new work by local and international artists. Mr. Barenblit's selection reflects on three primary themes he consistently finds in the work of so many contemporary artists: the continuous critique of reality and its underlying inherent contradictions; the power of the moving image in contemporary culture; and the role of the individual in a conflicted society.

Martí Anson

Walt and Travis, 2003 [22:33]

The characters in this road movie, produced during a residency at Ohio's Wexner Center for the Arts, drive silently over hill and dale and never arrive at any one place. Anson often deals with issues related to time and expectation. He keeps the viewer frozen in anticipation by building the tension of an action without ever releasing it.



Carles Congost

Un Mystique determinado [A Certain Mystique], 2003 [17:20]

The central character of the video is a promising young footballer that falls under a strange enchantment and is compelled to behave like a Spanish video artist. Congost uses musical and visual elements from pop music and culture from the 70s and 80s to create his elaborate, humorous and fantastic fictions.

(more)

Pep Duran

Mudo [Mute], 2004, [8:08]

Duran investigates the relationship between sound and image driven narration. The video begins in a small room with sound. Little by little the room fills with people and the sound dissipates to silence. Duran has created the appearance that the people entering the space are displacing the sound. A voice off-screen describes exactly what we are seeing without giving any more information than what we can see with our own eyes. The paradox: if what we see is what they say then why is the image necessary?



Mabel Palacín

Sur l'autoroute [On the highway], 1999, [13:09]

Palacín's work dwells between fact and fiction. She uses simple silhouettes from the tradition of shadow puppet theatre, to create a surreal road movie. The video is a dramatic tale about an individual navigating a complex reality where things do not always appear to be what they are.

Tere Recarens

Helicopter-peas, 2004, [3:03]

This short video shows the artist visiting her family in their little town near La Selva, some 70 miles north of Barcelona. Recarens arrives at her family property via helicopter. The video shows Tere preparing dinner together with her parents followed by a dinner conversation. The dialogue is focused on her concerns of her being a thirty-something year old artist living and working in Barcelona.



Also showing at Otis College of Art + Design through

July 23: ***Fat Mark Kaake: Cruise & Destroy***

July 30: ***Robert Williams: Through Prehensile Eyes***

Location: Otis College of Art + Design, 9045 Lincoln Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Parking: Free visitor parking in structure on La Tijera and on the street

Gallery Hours: Tue – Sat: 10a – 5p / Thu: 10a – 7p. Closed Mondays & major holidays. Closed May 28-30 and July 2-4.

Gallery Office Hours: Mon – Fri: 10a – 5p

Gallery Admission: Free

Information: 310.665.6905, gallerinfo@otis.edu, www.otis.edu

Gallery Tours: 310.665.6909 to schedule tours for school, museum or other groups.

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