

# Mabel Palacín

## Outer ring road (Circunvalación externa)

**29.05.12 > 14.09.12**

Opening: Thursday 29th May, 20 h.

àngels barcelona presents "Outer ring road (Circunvalación externa)", last project by Mabel Palacín, co produced by the gallery: a two-channel video installation in which the same image is repeated in two places.

The project consists of two scenes, as an open sentence in which the viewer wonders about issues such as beginning, middle and ending of narrative structure as this is shown dismantled, dispersed in the image and its context. We always see through something, the image is thus defined by its surrounding as a medium capable of destabilizing, changing, neutralizing it.

"Outer ring road (Circunvalación externa)" continues artist's investigation about how images work. It's a brief statement that brings together some of the issues that in recent years have focused Mabel Palacín's work: repetition of images as an essential feature, with almost a viral behavior in contemporaneity, the image repeated is never identical, image's ability to absorb it all, the possibility that the images no longer belong to us, the disappearance of the differences between still image and moving image, etc.

"Outer ring road (Circunvalación externa)" refers to ring roads in cities that connect different urban and suburban areas (center-periphery), the scenes in the installation explore diverse contexts of contemporary cities. The same image is seen in two different places, two very different domestic indoors. A television displays an image for no one, as the two places are empty. The only character that does appear in the image is absorbed by it, in what we might call the "inner image", he is alone and records himself. The action of the character is dotted with some other images that show empty cities in which automation still work, but in use for no one. At times we see some people, but the texture of the image, from other times, states that they belong to the universe of remembrance, and the memory.

The "inner image" appears twice, the two indoor spaces where it appears are two type of homes, one seems to belong more to the urban periphery and the other one seems perhaps more bourgeois or stable. The action appears as frozen in the two spaces, in the objects and the activity of inhabitants that are gone, but whose footprints cast possible interpretations of what we see.

In "Outer ring road (Circunvalación externa)" the structure of the image is scattered between the monitor or television that presides over two rooms, footage images from commercial files, the action of a character that only exists because he records himself step by step, rooms and objects that freeze the action and the surrounding landscape, which we see through the windows. "Outer ring road (Circunvalación externa)" is part of a work in progress which structure disperses the elements of narrative structure among its elements.

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Mabel Palacín represented Catalonia and the Balearic Islands in the Venice Biennale (2011) with the project 180°, which have won unanimous plaudits from the international critics. She has been exhibited in successive solo and group art shows, including the Salvador Dalí Museum St. Petersburg (Florida), Coleção Berardo Museum (Lisbon), Museu Empordà (Figueres) Casino Luxembourg Forum d' Art Contemporain (Luxembourg), MACBA (Barcelona), Museo Patio Herreriano (Valladolid), Künstlerhaus Palais Thurn und Taxis (Bregenz), Reykjavik Art Museum, Kunstbunker Tumulka (Münich), Kwangju Biennale, Norwich Gallery, Norway. Centre d'Art Santa Mònica (Barcelona), MUA (Alicante) and ARTIUM (Vitoria), among others.