

ANIA SOLIMAN

AUTOCORRECT (Fee, Fraud, Freud)

07.02.17 – 24.03.17

Opening: Tuesday 7 February at 7 PM



àngels barcelona is pleased to present the first solo show in Spain of the interdisciplinary artist Ania Soliman (b. 1970, Warsaw), whose research-based body of work constantly questions the basis for different kinds of representation, knowledge or means of communication, paying special attention to the nature of consciousness as it is constructed across a variety of disciplines.

Soliman makes both large-scale drawings and smaller works that track her thought process, at times showing them with objects from institutional collections. Many of her projects are also enriched by the use of video and installations.

As the artist states, the title for this show comes from trying to type the word “Freud” into a text message and having autocorrect suggest the word “fee” and then the word “fraud.” It felt to her as if the digital unconscious was trying to deliver a verdict on the state of psychoanalysis, now that the brain is seen as a machine whose functioning is better addressed through chemical processes and meditation rather than through narratives. As the artist puts it:

Drawing is a thought process that engages the unconscious: this is what I have been telling myself. The exhibition will test this concept by bringing back the narratives behind some of my projects from the past few years in a video presentation

The scene for this return will have two parts. First of all Freud will be addressed in drawings based on photographs of his home and office, taken just before he left Vienna to escape Fascism. This will anchor the popularized idea of the unconscious in a specific physical location, filled with Freud’s collection of objects. The other part will consist of a video installation of objects taken in the storage of an anthropology museum. In this work the body becomes a protagonist in the act of looking, with the camera recording a kind of dance about the object mediated through technology. In the context of this show the work will activate the narrative of how different cultures provide different structures for the psychic object we designate as the unconscious.

Ania Soliman (b. 1970, Warsaw) is an artist, currently based in Paris, whose work is informed by her multicultural background. Born in Poland, Soliman grew up between Iraq, Europe and the USA. She spent the first 16 years of her life between Cairo and Baghdad, before travelling to study in Paris, London, and in the US, where she attended Harvard and Columbia Universities as well as the Whitney Independent Study program.

In her practice, Soliman explores the placement of the individual between the virtual and material worlds, using archives from a futurological perspective, reconfiguring images and objects to help us think about the specific conditions of living in matter (by using different types of drawing (such as the trace, the design, the diagram, the expressive mark), videos, text, and installation.

Her work has been exhibited at the Helga de Alvear Foundation, Cáceres (2016-17), the Whitney Biennial (2010), and Artists Space in New York; she has had solo shows at the Drawing Center (NY) (2000) and the Museum of Culture in Basel (2014). Among her most recent exhibitions are *Blind Date*, at Sfeir-Semler Gallery in Beirut (2017), *1000m2 of desire. Architecture and sexuality*, at the CCCB in Barcelona (2017), *Art / Music / Dance* at the Museum of Modern Art in Salzburg (2016), and the Istanbul Biennial in 2015.

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