

MABEL PALACÍN

The missing link

04.04.17 – 09.06.17

Opening: Tuesday 4 April at 7 PM



àngels barcelona presents "The missing link", the last project by Mabel Palacín and her second solo show at the gallery, with which she continues her investigation on the relation that we currently maintain with images, the way they function and how they relate to the reality in which we inhabit; Or what is also known as "the cinematization of society in everyday life".

With this project Palacín fills the two gallery rooms with a multiplicity of YouTube channel videos through which the viewer becomes the witness of a frieze composed by 28 videos, that act as an illustrative example of the great change produced with the digitization of images and its circulation in networks. This project clearly shows how the democratization of image-production has turned each, and every one, of us (authors) into "actors for other actors" thus abandoning for good the condition of passive spectators.

By displaying the videos of the well-known website, Palacín invites us to reflect on the current omnipresent status of the image in our "multiple and portable" screens and their ability to witness a wide variety of intimacies, personalities and daily routines. The new video made by the artist takes as a starting point and, at the same time, synthesizes, the YouTube videos displayed, summarizing its procedure. "The missing link" aims to highlight a period of transition of the image, in which we abandon the already obsolete separation between the image and cinema and we enter an "intermediate" zone from which we can only sense some of its features. As the actress of the video mentions, when referring to the massive presence of cameras in our lives, "There's no image without action and all that we do, we do it just because a camera is recording our actions."

The emphasis of this project is placed on the *cinematization* of the everyday life in contemporary society, or to think reality in a cinematographic way. If the fundamental function of the image is to communicate, with this project, in which "pocket-size cinema" becomes its protagonist, we realize that the priority in the contemporary DIY –image-making society is precisely to organize the multiplicity of these images and, at the same time, to define a new context in which through experimentation these images can be used in new ways in order to create stories, to activate other narrative processes.

"The camera is our body".

The work of **Mabel Palacín** (Barcelona, 1965) deals with the relationship that we maintain with images and the way they insert themselves in our daily lives. In this relationship there are two aspects that interest the artist the most: the resistance of images to be interpreted in a stable way and the capacity that the technical image has developed nowadays to become a kind of *lingua franca* in contemporary art. Under these two considerations Palacín produces photographs, videos and installations, in which images are put into play as alternatives to the usual way in which they operate.

Mabel Palacín represented Catalonia and the Balearic Islands at the Venice Biennale in 2011 with the project 180°, with which she achieved great recognition amongst the critics.

She has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions at the FRAC Languedoc-Roussillon (Montpellier), Salvador Dalí Museum of St. Petersburg (Florida), Berardo Collection Museum (Lisbon), Empordà Museum (Figueres), Casino Luxembourg Forum d'Art Contemporain (Luxembourg), MACBA (Barcelona), Patio Herreriano Museum (Valladolid), Künstlerhaus Thurn und Taxis Palace (Bregenz), Reykjavik Art Museum, Kunstbunker Tumulka (Munich), Kwangju Biennale, Norwich Gallery 'Art Santa Mònica (Barcelona), MUA (Alicante) and ARTIUM (Vitoria), among others.

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