

MARÍA ALCAIDE

Guǎnlǐ de shǒu. The managed hand

05 > 27 September 2019 - ART NOU 2019

Opening: Thursday 5 September, 5:30 PM.



àngels barcelona presents *Guǎnlǐ de shǒu. The managed hand*, a project by María Alcaide as part of this year's edition of Art Nou.

Guǎnlǐ de shǒu is the Chinese phonetic translation of the title 'The Managed Hand' (Kang, 2003), a study of the work that takes place in beauty salons, run mostly by Asian migrants, specialized in nail art, or manicure art, and sometimes offering massage services. For this project, Alcaide transforms the gallery space into a beauty salon to emphasize the generalized consumption of services related to body care and, thus, use the everyday experience in order to rise to a higher category that which is banal, in order to give visibility to objects and people, that are precarious in their nature.

Contrary to the generalized notion that offers a vision of beauty establishments as spaces where a community among women can emerge, this project explores the fragile solidarity that can arise through a manicure table, and that generally gives way to divisions in which socio-economic elements related to social class, labor precariousness or immigration come into play.

As the author mentions "My research is focused on the aesthetic and power relations that occur in my own context, materializing them through such disparate media as photography, installation, performance, textile art or the publication of artist's books. I am interested in the creation and re-signification of images that reveal the ideological and political frictions that occur in domesticity, which is why my work methodology is close to anthropological research, because I always start from estrangement to finally arrive at a final plastic solution".

With *Guǎnlǐ de shǒu* àngels barcelona becomes a beauty salón in order to highlight the emotional work linked to the provision of services related to the body and, furthermore, to illustrate one of the artist's previous lines of research which is centred on making visible the economic conditions of a precarised young class. In this way, and without leaving aside an acute sense of humour, María Alcaide's beauty parlour highlights certain mechanisms of privilege and oppression that take place in this type of spaces. Hands that work other hands, hands that touch but never get affected: the managed hands.

Parallel activity 17.09.19 > 7:30 PM - Conversation in Spanish between Oriol Fontdevila and María Alcaide.

BIO

María Alcaide (Aracena, 1992) graduated in Fine Arts from the University of Seville, completed the License in Arts Plastiques at the Université Paris VIII and has a Master's Degree in Art and Design Research from Eina-UAB in Barcelona. Her work as a researcher has been presented in academic research environments such as the École des Hautes Études in Social Sciences (Paris), the Universität Der Künste (Berlin), the Complutense University of Madrid and the Tapies Foundation (Barcelona).

He has participated in several collective exhibitions at the Centro de Arte Complutense, CAAC, Can Felipa, LOOP Barcelona with Espai Colona, Fran Reus gallery or BlueProject Foundation. He has received the prize for the creation of the Sala d'Art Jove and the INJUVE scholarship and has made residencies in La escocesa and Bilbaoarte.

Internationally, he has shown his work in Helsinki (Muu Kaapeli), Berlin (ACUD, Fiber Festival) or San Francisco (EAS, Reed College). She has been awarded in Jeune Création and Salon de Montrouge 64 (Paris) and has also enjoyed several residencies in Berlin (Agora Collective), Leipzig (LeFugitif) or Western Sahara (Artifarti), among others.

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