

Efrén Álvarez
Mireia C. Saladrígues

07.02.08 > 22.03.08

Inauguration: Thursday, February 7th, 20h.

Àngels Barcelona presents the work of two young artists: **Efrén Álvarez** and **Mireia C. Saladrígues**.

Efrén Álvarez (Barcelona, 1980) is currently working on the project: **Government**, an exhaustive map of Catalan politics, which tries to reflect the conditions and characteristics of the political system. Beauty is on the inside, is the motto that the project adopts to debut the systemic caricature, a genre inherited from the political cartoon and the managerial flowchart, which transcends a statistical vision of the society in order to experiment with formulas of discreet representation. The project thus intends to demonstrate that transparency in our democracy is a real possibility, wagering the proposal as a form of social criticism. Under the title **Nuevo realismo socialista** (New socialist realism), a series drawings of different formats presents relational graphs about politics and power.

The techniques of relational cartography and non-geographical mappings are the central elements in Álvarez's work, which is framed temporarily by the general title, **Iniciativa de Representación Estructural** (Structural Representation Initiative). Under this epigraph, all his material production can be considered a multi-format work in progress. In the artist's own words: "The imagery of the project tries to make easily apprehensible those situations of great complexity, such as the relations of servitude in a shopping mall or the learning experience that occurs when one is apparently teaching".

Álvarez has a degree in fine arts from the Universitat de Barcelona; he has shown in the group exhibitions: Sala d'Art jove de la Generalitat, 2007 or Biennal de Valls, 2007, among others. In 2007 he received a scholarship from Producció EADC (Government of Catalonia) and the Miquel Casablanques award. Recently, he has been selected for the exhibition: Bcn Producció 2008 which will take place in the Capella (Barcelona) in January this year.

Mireia C Saladrígues, presents **Projecte E/F** an investigation that aims to question and deconstruct the idea that abroad, one works better than here. The project consists of a video proposal that shows a representation of a conversation among three characters (who never reveal what they do for a living), while they have coffee in the communal zone of their workplace. The actors interpret a script that is based on approximately thirty interviews and other material gathered during the investigation.

The artist's most recent projects stem from her interest in putting into crisis topics and clichés in order to understand the context in which she lives and works, using conversations, interviews and theoretical sources for her research. As she states: "Being conscious of a context can provoke a circumstance that turns recipients into participants, so that many projects would be incomplete without the public. But, in any case, the principal intention is to generate questions and foster an occasion for discussion".

Saladrígues has a BFA and an MPhil in fine arts from the Universitat de Barcelona and completed the MACBA Independent Scholars Program (PEI) 2005-2007. She has received a research and artistic production grant from the Guasch Coranty Foundation, 2007. In 2006 she did a residency in HIAP (Helsinki-International-Artists-in-Residence-Program) as part of an exchange program with CAN (Center of Art and Nature of Farrera). Some of her individual exhibitions include: *El poder de la convocatòria* for *Punt de partida* in Terrassa (Spain), 2008, *Pràcticas conversacionales* in the Centro Cultural Bastero in Andoain, Guipúzcoa (Spain), 2007 and the *sinisyyden vastalause event* in HIAP (Finland). This last show is part of the *sinisyyden vastalause* project, for which the artist has recently been selected as an artist in residence in PORI A-I-R, Finland

More information at: www.angelsbarcelona.com