

PRESS RELEASE

Istituzione Bologna Musei | Villa delle Rose (via Saragozza 228/230, Bologna)

Antoni Muntadas

Muntadas. Interconnessioni

Curated by Cecilia Guida and Lorenzo Balbi

18 January - 22 March 2020

Inauguration Friday 17 January 2020 6 pm

Bologna, 16 January 2020 - Villa delle Rose's promotion of artists active on the international scene continues with a first solo exhibition of the work of **Antoni Muntadas** (Barcelona 1942) in an Italian museum, entitled *Muntadas. Interconnessioni*, curated by Cecilia Guida and Lorenzo Balbi.

Promoted by Istituzione Bologna Musei | MAMbo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, in collaboration with Artium, Centro-Museo Vasco de Arte Contemporáneo di Vitoria-Gasteiz, Álava, the partnership of Fondazione Federico Zeri and the patronage of Dipartimento delle Arti Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna, the exhibition follows on from a solo show in the Basque contemporary art museum from 4 October 2019 to 12 January 2020.

The two twin exhibitions differ in their specific relationship with their exhibition spaces. The Bologna exhibition has been specially designed for 18th century Villa delle Rose's 'domestic' dimension, breathing life into a trajectory fostering an intimate relationship between exhibition and visitor starting from a warning at the entrance: "*Warning! Perception requires involvement*".

Muntadas. Interconnessioni is one of **ART CITY Bologna's** main projects, an institutional programme of exhibitions, events and special initiatives sponsored by Bologna town council in conjunction with BolognaFiere on the occasion of Arte Fiera.

The exhibition analyses a cross section of Muntadas's work stretching from the early 1970s to today, establishing precise new meaning and relationship spheres between the recurring themes in his interdisciplinary work: globalisation, trans-national capitalism, the device notion, the public/private relationship, the relationship between monuments and memory, the 'microphysics' of power, the archive dialogue, the translation process, information circulation, the political image channelled by the media.

The title refers to a phrase by art and architecture historian Mark Wigley who calls the artist "*more a city than a person, a network of spaces of exchange operation over long periods of time rather than an individual*" - highlighting the nomadic travelling and untiring networking which has marked out Muntadas's long career.

Muntadas's research - in *media landscapes* which have led to him being seen as a Media Art pioneer in the conceptual art context - has explored **art, social sciences, communication systems** and their reciprocal interconnections since the beginning of his career. The landscape metaphor, according to the artist, explains how media systems (newspapers, radio, TV, web, digital media) create alternate scenarios to those traditionally identified by art historians as nature representations: they are new, technologically determined landscapes.

Keeping aloof from facile generalisations Muntadas works for individual projects, analysing his contexts and adapting to these in accordance with a *site specific* and *time specific* approach. This enables him to explore the complexities of the present and analyse the system's contradictions in depth. The medium best suited to the individual work is not determined *a priori* but evolves out of the artistic process.

The Villa delle Rose exhibition path shows us how Muntadas succeeds in varying his media: photography, video, publications, web, installations and town planning work.

The **21 works** on show take the form of complex artifices which can be activated during the visitor-exhibition interaction, generating meaning: if the 1970s work is the contextual background, more recent work draws our attention to his current style, taking on social, political and communication themes and unmasking cases in which information channels claim a non-existent objectivity while censoring or promoting ideas to the extent of phenomena like fake news.

In line with his attention to the theme of public space and openness to the context of action, Muntadas opens up to dialogue with Bologna via two operations, one in an alternative space from the villa and the second from the starting point of the city's history.

The first one is a documentation space at **Bologna University's Fondazione Federico Zeri** (Piazzetta Giorgio Morandi 2) which completes the exhibition, presenting various materials on three of the artist's large scale recent projects: *Asian Protocols* (2011-2018), *About Academia* (2011 and 2017) and *La construcción del miedo* (2008-2013).

The second is a site specific public intervention concept entitled ***On Translation: I Piedistalli***. The inspiration for the project was 59 busts of eminent men once located in Parco della Montagnola, removed as a result of vandalism and relocated to the Villa delle Rose attic since 1998 awaiting restoration. In Muntadas's conceptual project, however, it is the pedestals supporting them rather than the busts themselves being the object of the work because these can be considered a metaphor for power in its various forms: political, cultural, economic and religious. In their autonomous status as significant bearers of significance, relocated to the public space, the pedestals become devices capable of reactivating a historic and cultural dialogue with the city's fabric.

On the occasion of ***Muntadas. Interconnessioni*** a **Corraini Edizioni** trilingual volume is published with critical contributions from Beatriz Herráez, Lorenzo Balbi, Cecilia Guida, Arturo fito Rodríguez Bornaetxea, Roberto Pinto and Gabriel Villota Toyos.

The exhibition will also be accompanied by mediation work by **MAMbo's educational department** to improve the exhibition's user friendliness for visitors of all ages.

We would like to thank the galleries Moisés Pérez de Albeniz (Madrid) and Michela Rizzo (Venezia), Marcello Forin, Teresa Mulet and Andrea Nacach.

In the context of



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BIOGRAPHY

Born in Barcelona in 1942, Antoni Muntadas has been living in New York since 1971.

Exhibition

He has exhibited in important museums the world over including New York's MoMA, Berkeley Art Museum in California, Musée d'art contemporain in Montréal, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid, Museo de Arte Moderno in Buenos Aires, Museu de Arte Moderna in Rio de Janeiro and Museu d'Art Contemporani in Barcelona.

In international event terms his work has included the VI and X Documenta in Kassel (1977, 1997), Whitney Biennial of American Art (1991) and the 51st Venice Biennial (2005), representing Spain, as well as those of Sao Paulo, Lyon, Taipei, Gwangju and Havana.

His solo exhibitions held after *On Translation: I Giardini* at the Venice Biennial's Padiglione Spagnolo (2005) include *Protokolle* at Württembergischer Kunstverein in Stuttgart and the *On Translation: Social Networks* installation at Inter-Society of Electronic Arts in San José, California, in 2006. In 2007 he exhibited simultaneously at *Muntadas/BS. AS*, Espacio Fundación Telefónica and Centro Cultural Recoleta and Centro Cultural de España in Buenos Aires. In 2008 he presented *Petit et Grand* at the Parisian Cervantes Institute and *Muntadas: La construcción del miedo y la pérdida de lo público* al Centro José Guerrero in Granada. In 2009 he worked at the Mies van der Rohe pavilion in Barcelona with *Muntadas. On Translation: Paper BP/MVDR*, exhibited at SBC galerie d'art contemporain in Montréal *La construction de la Peur* and a retrospective of his work was held at Cinémathèque québécoise entitled: *Muntadas: Vidéo, média critica*. In 2010, in the context of *Lives and Works in Istanbul*, he presented his new *On Translation: Açık Radyo. Mitos y Estereotipos*, exhibited at Istanbul's Museum of Modern Art. That same year Muntadas exhibited *Informação-Espaço-Controle* at Estação Pinacoteca in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and *About Academia* at Harvard University, Cambridge's Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts. This exhibition then moved to Arizona State University Museum and Accademia Americana in Roma, Italy. At Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía he presented his exhibition *Muntadas: Entre/Between* from November 2011 to March 2012. The exhibition then moved to Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian in Lisbon, Jeu de Paume in Paris and Vancouver Art Gallery. In 2014 and 2015 he exhibited at New York's Kent Fine Art, Galleria Michela Rizzo in Venice, Galería Joan Prats in Barcelona and Galería Moisés Pérez de Albéniz in Madrid, as well as MuCEM, Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée in Marseilles, France. In 2015 he was invited to the 72nd Venice Film Festival to present his new work *Dérive Veneziane*, a video projection devoted to Venice. In 2016 he worked at an extension of his *About Academia* (2011) project which resulted in two exhibitions of the same name *Activating Artifacts: About Academia*, hosted at De Appel, Amsterdam, Low Countries, and Center for Art, Design and Visual Culture at Baltimore's University of Maryland. In January 2017 he presented his solo exhibition *Palabras, Palabras...* at Galería Moisés Pérez de Albéniz in Madrid and, in October that same year, *Muntadas Videoworks*, at OCAT in Shanghai. In 2011 he worked on his project *Asian Protocols*, the first part of which was presented at Seoul's Total Museum in 2014, the second phase at Tokyo's 3331 Arts Chiyoda in 2016 and the third at Three Shadows Photography Art Center in Beijing China in 2018. That same year Centro Galego de Arte Contemporánea in Santiago de Compostela dedic-

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ated its *Muntadas. Estratexias do desprazamento* exhibition to him and Cristina Guerra Contemporary Art in Lisbon presented *Muntadas, Espectáculo / Poder / Mass Media*. Barcelona's Joan Prats Gallery also hosted the *Edicions II* exhibition of his graphic work from 2003 to today. He also took part in the collective exhibition *Before Projection: Video Sculpture 1975-1995*, held at MIT List Visual Art Center, Massachusetts, before transferring to Sculpture Center, Long Island City, New York. In 2019, together with the work of Fabio Mauri he took part in an exhibition entitled *Mauri/Muntadas*, held at Galleria Michela Rizzo in Venice.

Teaching

He has taught and held seminars at various institutions in Europe and the United States including École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts in Paris, the Bordeaux and Grenoble fine arts schools, the University of California in San Diego, the San Francisco Art Institute, the Cooper Union in New York, University of Sao Paulo and Buenos Aires University. He has also taken part in art residencies and taught at a range of research and training centres including the Rochester Visual Studies Workshop, Banff Centre in Alberta, Arteleku in San Sebastián, Studio national des arts contemporains - Le Fresnoy and Western Sydney University. He was Visiting Professor at the MIT School of Architecture in Cambridge's visual arts programme at length (1977-2014). He is currently professor at IUAV in Venice.

Awards and prizes

Muntadas has won many prizes and bursaries from institutions such as John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, Ars Electronica in Linz, Laser d'Or in Locarno, Premio Nacional d'Arts Plàstiques awarded by the Generalitat de Catalunya and Premio Nacional de Artes Plásticas 2005. In 2009 he was awarded the Velázquez prize for the plastic arts by the Spanish minister of culture.

SCHEDA TECNICA

Artist

Antoni Muntadas

Exhibition

Muntadas. Interconnessioni

Curated by

Cecilia Guida e Lorenzo Balbi

Promoted by

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Venue

Villa delle Rose, via Saragozza 228/230 Bologna

Dates

18 January - 22 March 2020

Inaugurazione

Friday 17 January 2020 6 pm

Opening hours

Saturday 18 - Sunday 19 January 2020 2 pm - 6 pm

Monday 20 January 2020 closed

Tuesday 21 - Wednesday 22 January 2020 2 pm - 6 pm

ART CITY Bologna opening hours:

from Thursday 23 January to Sunday 26 January 2020 10 am - 8 pm

Ordinary opening hours:

Friday, Saturday, Sunday 2 pm - 6 pm

Tickets

€ 5 full | € 3 reduced

free during ART CITY Bologna 2020

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