

fugue 3 times
claudia pagès rabal
in collaboration with The Ryder, Madrid

1 september - 30 september
part of DC Open

Fugue 3 Times is organised around three works where Claudia Pagès Rabal constructs conceptual maps of three different verbal tenses while trying to break away from them. Her work, characterised by an overflowing and performative use of language, continues for this occasion with an investigation that she has been developing in recent years focused on shipping systems and their connection with the body, jurisdictional language, its verbal tenses and its violence.

For this exhibition, the artist creates a choreography of artworks that operates as a desire to escape from the semantics of the status quo. Two of them are presented in the form of backlit light boxes where we find images and texts, all being negative objects that can only be read against the light. In Fugue Gerund (2023), Claudia uses tracing paper to create a story with different topological figures situated in the harbor and that aim to escape from what she calls the Gerund (a non-personal verbal tense that eliminates the subject and maintains it in a violent and suspended being). In the other light box, Fugue Dual (2023), the artist explores texts and figures that break down dual forms through handmade paper and watermarks, all produced using fresh water and following the same techniques employed in Medieval times. Claudia chooses to record her narrative on these materials that the bureaucracy uses to copy and legitimise, thus dismantling its strategies and rendering them vulnerable.

The story is completed with a third mobile and changing element that extends throughout the gallery space in the form of a laser light projected onto the walls. This high-tech material contrasts with the projected hand-made animations and XV century watermarks. If Fugue Gerund and Fugue Dual are situated in coastal and fresh waters, the laser graffiti that impregnates the walls are the pure signifiers that circulate between both. The laser files and projects on the walls, functioning both as ephemeral graffiti and as a mobile archive made with light signifiers that travel and fragment through the space simultaneously.

This combination of choreographic texts results in a surplus of signifiers that interacts with the visitor's body, interrupting its time and breaking its linearity. It's on the fracture where Claudia operates, seeking to create a constellation of fugitive works.

claudia pagès rabal (Barcelona, 1990).

Visual artist, performer and writer. Lives and works in Barcelona. Claudia Pagès has read, performed and exhibited at CA2M (Madrid, 2023), Fundació Joan Miró (2023), Tabakalera (Donostia, 2022), diez (Amsterdam, 2022), Vleeshal (Middelburg, 2022), The Ryder (Madrid, 2022), MACBA (Barcelona, 2021), Kunstverein Braunschweig (2021), La Casa Encendida (Madrid, 2021), CAPC (Bordeaux, 2022), HAU2 (Berlin, 2019) and Sharjah Art Foundation (Sharjah, UAE, 2018), among others. Pagès Rabal had a book published by Onomatopee (2020) and is preparing a new book with Wendy's Subway (2023). Claudia has received the Mondriaan Werkbijdrage Jong Talent (2016-2017), Ojo Critico Prize (2022) and has been resident at Gasworks (London, 2017), Triangle France (Marseille, 2020) and Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten (2020-2022).

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