

Review

International Concrete: An Exhibition of Multidisciplinary Concrete Art

23 Oct – 07 Nov 2017

Curated by Dr Judith Duquemin

Eduard Escoffet/ES, Marcela Jardón/AR/ES, Liz Helman/UK, Patrick Morrissey & Hanz Hancock/UK, Judith Duquemin/AU/UK, Nicole Ellis/AU, Lila Afiouni/AU, Francesca Partridge & Franck Dubuc/AU/FR

International Concrete: An Exhibition of Multidisciplinary Concrete Art is an inquiry-based exhibition of concrete sound, film, mixed media/textile, painting, drawing, digital art and poetry, at Marcela Jardón Gallery, Bulevard dels Antiquaris, Passeig de Gracia, 55-57, 1st Floor, L6, 0800, Barcelona.

Initiated by London based, Australian artist/curator, Judith Duquemin, this group exhibition is both a collaboration and a research project that seeks to expand the strict terms that once shrouded early 20th Century Concrete Art, particularly in the fields of Painting, Sculpture, Music, Film, Sound and Poetry.

While traditional examples of Concrete Art are still conscientiously practised in the present day, the genre has progressed with the development of an information society and its advancing digital technology.

New art forms have merged and emerged, experimentation through freedom of choice, is the key. Creatively speaking the artist has never had it so good. Elements of practice have become devices to explore hybridity across all media, contributing to an aesthetic experience that overrides the preservation of stand-alone genre, and with it, the singularity of didactic interpretation.

The ten contributing artists from Spain, Argentina, France, Australia and the United Kingdom were asked to address principles of concrete art within their respective practices, and, as a pilot project, the results have been outstanding. Occupying one small contemporary gallery in the heart of Barcelona, elements of repetitious, adjoining, and overlapping colours, lines, words, shapes, as well as, soundwaves, animated digital particles, and moving images, that are installations and wall works, override the need for narrative.

For the visitor the effect of this exhibition is mesmerizing, hypnotic, immersive, and transcendental! Contemporary Concrete Art can be enchanting and complex, at the same time upholding the basic principles of: constructive elementary form; medium self-referencing; and non-symbolic inference, all proclaimed in Europe almost one hundred years ago.

Expressions of interest from curators in arts institutions as well as independent curators concerning this project are encouraged.

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