

VII JAFRE BIENNIAL



Diane Guyot de St Michel, *T-shirts on the Washing Line. Wild Boar Serie, 2015*

8–9 August 2015

PRESENTATION

The Jafre Biennial celebrates its 12th year as an alternative, innovative visual arts project in Catalonia. The aim of the organisers is to explore new artistic trends outside urban spaces integrating the semi-rural community in a global discourse and combining them with the historical, economic and cultural life of Jafre.

For two days, national and international artists present installations, interventions and performances in the houses and streets of the village. There is a concert of electroacoustic music generally of a gestural, ephemeral character.

Since the first edition of the Biennial of Jafre in the year 2003, this event has become a platform where artists of different generations together with the people from Jafre make the Biennial a unique event in the world.

In this seventh edition of the Biennial of Jafre, the artists have been invited to explore, question and celebrate the meaning of freedom in today's society.

There will be interventions and site specific projects made for the context of the streets and public spaces of Jafre by Catalan artists Enric Farrés Duran, Lluís Hortalà Àngels Ribé and Pep Vidal; the Spanish artists Asunción Molinos Gordo and Juan Ugalde; the French artists John Deneuve and Diane Guyot of St Michel; the Portuguese Joana Bastos; the Lebanese artist Tony Chakar; the Romanian artist Ciprian Homorodean; the Cuban artist Levi Orta; the South African artist James Webb and the Argentine artist Amalia Pica. And a concert of electroacoustic music by composer François Bonnet.

VII BIENAL: *LIBERTAS*

Libertad: (From Latin *libertas*) 1. f. Man's capacity to act in one way or another, and not to act, being responsible for his actions. [Real Academia Española]

Freedom is one of the words most frequently used in the rhetoric of European democracies. Since its origins as legal status in Roman law, freedom has been the most valued right a human being can possess yet also the most costly to obtain and preserve.

In order to organise community life, democracies establish rules conditioned by the economic, political and religious needs of society. For this reason freedom becomes an abstract object marked off by the historical context in which it develops. The inequality of conditions in different countries and regions is noticeable by the level of freedom granted to its citizens. Today, in an attempt to improve national order and security, it is the same legal systems that reduce the rights of the individual. A clear barometer of this is internet access.

Freedom is a complex concept which can be analysed from different perspectives. At a philosophical, sociological, anthropological, psychological and political level although perhaps the aspect which continues to be able to activate and represent the act and execution of freedom the most effectively is through artistic creation. Capable of taking a stance against any sort of censorship, artistic expression continues to be the most powerful vehicle with which to manifest, defend and promote an opinion. It is the job of visual artists, writers, musicians and creative intellectuals to use the ideas and emotions of a community and transform the signals of freedom into cultural acceptance. In the seventh edition of the Jafre Biennial, artists are invited to explore, question and celebrate the meaning of freedom in society today.

PROGRAM

Saturday 8 August

18:00 Officially opened the projects on show in the village.

Works by Enric Farrés Duran, Ciprian Homorodean, Diane Guyot de St Michel, John Deneuve, Lluís Hortalà, Asunción Molinos Gordo, Pep Vidal and James Webb. Videos de Tony Chakar and Juan Ugalde.

18:00 *Democratically*, intervention of Levi Orta where the directors of the Biennial will read the prohibitions contained in the new Public Safety Act. Meeting point at Carrer Ferreries 4.

18:30 Action by Àngels Ribé. From Carrer De Ferreries 4 we head to the Casa de la Vila with a symbolic delivery to the people of Jafre..

19:15 Performance created by Amalia Pica, *Retrospective in the Museum of the Words* read by Clara Gari.

20:00 Event of Joana Bastos, *I would like to invite you to my daughter's birthday party*, 2015. Join us to sing 'Moltes Felicitats' and try the birthday cake.

21:00 – 21:30 Electroacoustic music concert by François Bonnet in the Local Social.

21:45 Dinner at the Plaza del Castillo (tickets sale in Ferreries 4 Carrer).

Sunday 9 August

12:00 – 18:00 Casa de la Vila and projects on show in the village.

THE ARTISTS

Àngels Ribé (Barcelona, 1943) Began her artistic career in 1969 in Paris making sculpture, from which she gradually evolved into conceptual installations. Between 1972–1979, she lived in Chicago and in New York where she joined the group of pioneers of new art movements (land art, performance, body art, installations). In 1980 she returned to Barcelona where she lives and works.

Mala Hierba (Weed), 2015. Action

“Plant that grows always or predominantly in situations strongly altered by man and that turns out to be not wanted in a certain place and moment”.
Pujadas i Hernández (1988)

The Biennial of Jafre opens its VII edition with the intervention of the Catalan artist Àngels Ribé in the Casa de la Vila with a symbolic delivery to the local authority.

Enric Farrés Duran (Palafrugell, Girona, 1983) Graduated in Art and Design (Escola Massana, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) 2011 and in Philosophy (Universitat de Barcelona) 2012. He completed the final project of his degree at the Willem de Kooning Academy in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

In Jafre There is Everything, 2015. Installation

What is the point of having greater freedom of choice in a field that we do not know? Through the varied collection of beers offered by the village bar, the proposal of Farres Duran questions the current game of relations that are established, between the uniqueness of the local production, the globalism of its display and its distribution in places as specific as Jafre. The project proposes an analogy between artists and beers, understood both as products requiring curiosity as instinct, allowing knowledge and at the same time, freedom.

Juan Ugalde (Bilbao, 1958) Started exhibiting in Madrid in the early 1980s. Over the years has worked with different media and formats, dealing with issues such as social reality and marginality. From 2001 onwards, and in parallel to his pictorial work, he started doing video projects and installations that are gradually gaining more importance. He lives between El Escorial and Berlin.

Flotation after Marcel Broodthaers, 2014. Video, 51 min.

It proposes a reinterpretation of *La Pluie (projet pour a texte)* of 1969 by Marcel Broodthaers. In this case, rather than a text project, it is a project for a drawing, having breakfast and reading the newspaper at the same time. It departs from the idea of flotation, in contemporary society, of many disparate elements in a so-called drift of thought.

Ciprian Homorodean, (Timisoara, Romania, 1982)

Considers art as a unique language, one that may be used to give his discourse a form. Although a sculptural approach is often present in the conception of his projects, he uses whatever media is appropriate to bring his ideas to life. His vocabulary draws on personal history and observations of the world, viewed through a magnifying filter of humor and irony.

wysiwyg, 2015. Installation

wysiwyg is a reflection of our imaginary/imagined freedoms.

A first-degree approach confronts us with our own image, evoking feelings of vanity but also of inevitable uncertainties that surround our perceptions of self-worth. Looking deeper into the field, which situates us, the viewer, behind a fence, other contexts come to surface, in particular the loss of fundamental rights and privileges that tend to drive 21st Century society as a whole. Manipulating the literality of the material, Homorodean shows us the world from a new critical perspective and forces us to both imagine and confront other realities.

Asunción Molinos Gordo (Aranda de Duero, Burgos, 1979)

Graduated in Fine Arts from the Complutense University of Madrid. She lives in Egypt, Oman and Spain. Her work has been exhibited at MUSAC (León), Matadero (Madrid), The Townhouse Gallery (Cairo), Darat Al Funun (Amman), Delfina Foundation (London), Arnolfini (Bristol), CAB (Burgos), La Casa Encendida (Madrid) and Travesía Cuatro (Madrid) among others. She was the winner of the biennial Sharjah (UAE) in 2015 with her project WAM (World Agricultural Museum). Molinos Gordo works with issues of rurality and rural culture from a transnational perspective, using ethnography and anthropological research methods to understand the changes that take place in the rural environment.

Contestador (Answering Machine), 2012. Installation

This work or installation revolves around the bureaucratic practices that concern small and medium-sized farmers, and the impact on their activity. Through a sound piece that reproduces the answering machines used by the administration, a satire of these administrative procedures has been developed reversing the roles. This time the farmer is the owner of an answering machine ready to meet the requests of administration, phytosanitary houses, banks, mechanic repair, garages...

Amalia Pica (Nehuquén, Argentina, 1978) The now London-based artist's conceptual practice is highly attentive to images and forms, and is concerned with the communal, political and communicational in the widest sense.

Retrospective at the Museum of the words, 2015. Performance

The performance of the Argentine artist Amalia Pica, *Retrospective at the Museum of the words*, consists of a monologue describing chronologically a display of her work. Without more than her own voice, through language, the body of his work. Keeping her speech in the descriptive level without entering in interpretations or speculations to leave it to the spectator of the retrospective sample.

James Webb (South Africa, 1975) Has a B.A. in Drama and Comparative Religion, University of Cape Town, South Africa. His work, framed in large-scale installations in galleries and museums, or as unannounced interventions in public spaces, often makes use of ellipsis, displacement and *détournement* to explore the nature of belief and the dynamics of communication in our contemporary world.

My World Against Yours, 2012. Performance

The performer, who has been asked to simply "play the radio and sing," takes on the role of the composer and is at liberty to interpret these interactions at will. The title is a misquotation of the phrase "my word against yours," and here refers to the idea of two people's different worlds (or lives, or viewpoints) being placed next to each other. The word "against" doesn't need to be thought of as "in opposition to something," but could also refer to being "next to something or tangential."

Tony Chakar (Beirut, Lebanon, 1968) is a Lebanese architect and writer whose work incorporates literature, philosophy, and theory, and has been included in numerous exhibitions internationally, such as the 31st São Paulo Biennial with the work *Of Other Worlds That Are In This One*. Chakar contributes to art and architecture magazines and teaches history of art and architecture at the Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts, University of Balamand, Beirut.

Speak Mouthless, 2012. Video, 6 min.



Pep Vidal (Barcelona, 1980) Degree in Mathematics at Universitat Autònoma of Barcelona (UAB) (2008). Special interest in infinitesimal calculus, topology and infinite series. PhD in Physics at UAB and at ALBA synchrotron (2014). Pep Vidal works with infinitesimal changes –changes really small– that are constantly always everywhere. The chain of infinitesimal changes is infinite and chaotic. Infinitesimal changes produces bigger and perceptible changes. And then, systems –each space with any kind of interaction is a system– has to be modified, or destroyed, for having new systems. Systems are constantly modifying due to the infinitesimal changes.

Qué, una partidita (Let's play a round), 2015. Installation
Chess is a formal game (with a very clear rules) that consists of a board of 8x8 boxes –alternating in black and white colors– 32 pieces and twenty septillion of possible moves.

The Catalan artist Pep Vidal invites us to reflect on the conditions and limits that govern the duality between the freedom and the rules through the strategic game of chess.

Lluís Hortalà (Olot, Girona, 1959) Although self-taught, he studied at the Sant Jordi Fine Arts School, in Barcelona, 1977–78. Between 1995 and 2001 he lived and worked in London at Delfina Studios. Since 1997, he has been exploring the subject of landscape using light installations, drawings and sculptures, relating his personal experience as a mountain-climber to the artistic perspective. In 1982 he climbed the difficult western face of Mount Everest. He is currently working on a new series of works that explores the use that the human being makes of nature in his determination to construct domesticated spaces.

El Dret de Sagrera, un radi de trenta peus de llibertat (The right of Sagrera, a radius of thirty feet of freedom), 2015. Intervention
How reinterpret events that have been forgotten in the history is the origin and starting point of this intervention. *Sagrera* is the name given in Catalonia to the space around churches and it has the status of sacred territory, protecting farmers and their property from feudal violence. The concept stems from all the people of Catalonia in a historic setting located in the eleventh century. The work consists in drawing up a perimeter on the ground with centre in the parish of Sant Martí de Jafre. Paradoxically, this religious building is built on an ancient medieval castle: the old space of the 'oppressor' will become for two days and the draft biennial into a space for freedom.

Levi Orta (Havana - Vidreres, Cuba, 1984) Graduated at the Instituto Superior de Arte in La Havana in 2010 and the *Catedra de Arte Conducta* in 2009. Levi Orta's work investigates the creative component of politics, focusing on the inaccuracies at the art-political border.

Democratically, 2015. Intervention
"I asked the directors of the VII International Biennial of Jafre to make effective the recently approved Public Safety Act during the Biennial. To report about it, the directors of the Biennial will read during the opening

ceremony of the event the prohibitions contained in this new law, as well as the respective consequences in case of being violated.” *Democratically* makes us aware of the application of the Public Safety Act in the artistic context, making its application, which is nothing more than the desire of power, in a subversive act that violates the law itself.

Joana Bastos (Lisbon, Portugal, 1979) Graduated with a MFA from Chelsea College of Art and Design, London, 2008; graduated with a Postgraduate from the same college, 2007 and graduated with a BA Hons in painting, from University of Fine Arts, Lisbon, 2004.

I would like to invite you to my daughter’s birthday party, 2015. Event “On the 8th of August 2015 she will turn 4 years old! Can you imagine how excited she is? In the context of Jafre’s Biennial theme *LIBERTAD* (From Latin *libertas*) –Man’s capacity to act in one way or another, and not to act, being responsible for his actions– I have decided to stay closed to her on her birthday party. Therefore I won’t physically come to Jafre on that weekend. But would love to invite you all to celebrate with us her 4th birthday and the freedom of this choice. On the same day at the same time, I will be celebrating in Praia Grande (a tinny fishermen’s village, in Portugal) while you will be celebrating in the small village of Jafre’s (Spain). We will be physically apart but connected through this celebration – on a birthday song.”

John Deneuve (Marseille, France, 1976) Straightforwardly combining music, acoustic experimentation, performance, drawing, video and installation, the artwork of John Deneuve is intended to be decidedly *decompartmentalizing*. For a few years Deneuve has developed a world parodying the “tools from seduction”, the fetiches we can find in media and marketing communication. Absurdity, ridicule, naiveté, I enjoy pointing towards the nonsenses by setting up comical situations.

Plaisance (Playtime), 2015. Intervention Controlling tennis court users is impossible, what happens at sea continues between the lines. This governmental regulatory apparatus is need so their decisions can be enforced.

Diane Guyot de St Michel (France, 1980) Has two masters (both Hons) from Beaux Arts de Cergy and Arts Décoratifs de Paris, after spending three years in Liverpool, currently she lives and works in Marseille, France. The work of Diane Guyot is characterized by its study of various forms of power and the exploration of our everyday life experiences: themes like the economy, social mores, law and order, mass movements and the environment.

T-shirts on the Washing Line. Wild Boar Serie, 2015. Installation There is a domestic relation to this object that everyone has already used. The washing line is a thin string that extracts these T-shirts from consumerism: they would have been seen as products if displayed on hangers. The washing line reminds us of bodies and gestures. For Jafre Biennial, Guyot de St Michel is presenting the *Wild Boar Series*. Wild boars are taking over France in recent years; they are now invading towns, suburban gardens and even the suburban big supermarkets where food is easy to find. Today, the wildness is leaving France to participate to Jafre’s feast.

François Bonnet (Limoges, France, 1981) Kassel Jaeger is the project of François Bonnet a Franco-Swiss composer and electroacoustic musician. Based in Paris, he is a member of INA-GRM where he works as curator. He is also a writer and theoretician. He’s been collaborating with artists such as Oren Ambarchi, Giuseppe Lelasi, Stephan Mathieu, Jm O’Rourke, Akira Rabelais and James Rushford. Kassel Jaeger’s works are a complex balance between concrète experimentalism, ambient noise, and electroacoustic improv. He has released several well-received albums on various labels including Editions Mego, the Italian experimental label, Senufo Editions, as well as the boutique CD imprint, Unfathomless. In his fifth record, *Deltas*, Jaeger explores geological associations with sound, a theme he expanded in an installation for the exhibition *Multinatural Histories* at the Harvard Museum of Natural History. He used eight channels in the mineral room to make mineral resonances audible.

ARTISTS VII JAFRE BIENNIAL

Enric Farrés Duran, Lluís Hortalà, Àngels Ribé, Pep Vidal, Asunción Molinos Gordo, Juan Ugalde, John Deneuve, Diane Guyot de St Michel, Joana Bastos, Tony Chakar, Ciprian Homorodean, Levi Orta, James Webb, Amalia Pica, François Bonnet.

CURATORS

Mario Flecha, Carolina Grau, Daniel Teruggi

ADJUNCT CURATOR

Inés Jover

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Town Hall of Jafre

UE Jafre

Casal d'Estiu de Jafre

Local Social

Carnisseria Can Raliu

Èlia Bantí Alabau

Ramon Mas Alcàntara

Sergi Padrosa

Joan Bonany

Sebastià Alabau

Anna María and María Rosa Pibernet

LLuís Hortalá and family

Flecha Family

Grau Rahola Family

Jover Casanovas Family

Village of Jafre

And all those people who have helped us in several ways



Design: Inés Jover. Texts: Inés Jover, Carolina Grau, Mario Flecha