

The CAC Málaga presents *Pasión II. Colección Carmen Riera*

The Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga is pleased to present the group show *Pasión II. Colección Carmen Riera* in its permanent collection. Curated by Fernando Francés, it features works never before shown at the centre as well as others that were included in *Pasión. Colección Carmen Riera*. The pieces form part of a loan made in March 2009 by the collector Carmen Buqueras under the auspices of an agreement signed with the mayor of Málaga, Francisco de la Torre, for a period of five years renewable for another five to a total of 10 years. On this occasion 30 works by 29 different artists will be exhibited. For some of the artists, this will be the first time they have ever shown their work at the CAC Málaga. The exhibition is one of several events organised to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the CAC Málaga (2003-2013) and it will coincide with the presentation of a catalogue featuring all the art works that form part of the centre's collection.

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Pasión II comprises a selection of international contemporary art works dating from the end of the 20th century to the present day, offering a highly representative vision of the latest avant-gardes and artists' preoccupation with exploring and experimenting with new materials and techniques unprecedented in the creation of art. Critiques of the current social situation, the occupation of space and personal reflections are recurring themes with these artists. Names like Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Louise Bourgeois, Anish Kapoor, Sylvie Fleury and Cristina Iglesias, whose works have already been exhibited in different parts of the centre, will share the space with Matthew Ritchie, Kimsooja, Eve Sussman, Michel François and Rong Rong, all showing their work at the CAC Málaga for the first time.

As Fernando Francés, director the CAC Málaga explains, *Pasión II* "offers a unique opportunity to witness the evolution of contemporary art over the last three decades, featuring names that represent American, European and Asian art from the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century. As well as providing a visual 'catalogue' of art, this collection reveals the unprecedented use of techniques and materials like vinyl, polyester, LEDs and hot wax. The show also addresses themes that highlight the issues and concerns of society today: globalisation, violence, the crisis of values and the economic crisis. In short, it offers a different and wide-ranging perspective seen through the eyes of artists like Warhol, Bourgeois, Anish Kapoor, Cristina Iglesias, Susana Solano and Miquel Barceló, among others. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Carmen Buqueras once again for her generosity

in loaning us this marvellous art collection, for which we have also prepared a catalogue."

Newcomers

Among those exhibiting their work for the first time are Spanish artists like Carmen Calvo, a conceptual artist who exposes the violence in society and focuses her gaze on popular culture and ancestral roots as a response to the challenges of globalisation. Julio Galán is attributed with having revived the visual arts in his native country, Mexico, and is considered to be an icon of figurative art, defined by a dark style that blends thick strokes with opaque colours.

Eve Sussman, from the United Kingdom, uses film, video, installation, sculpture and photography in her work and explores the interaction between the spectator and his environment. Adam McEwen is also from the United Kingdom and, like Warhol before him, examines the obsession with the world of the rich and famous and the sensationalist culture. His best known works include obituaries to prominent living figures like Bill Clinton and Kate Moss. He is also renowned for his monochromatic paintings and graphite sculptures of banal objects. The Belgian artist Miguel François explores a wide variety of artistic media in his work, including installation, video, sculpture and photography, which he uses to examine the contradictions between public and private. Another British artist, Matthew Ritchie, employs a personal language inspired by science, theology and philosophy. His pictorial installations, murals, light boxes, sculptures and online interactive projects express the idea of information explored through science, architecture and history. Drawing is central to his work.

Meanwhile, Kimsooja has created a body of work in which she pursues the universalisation of the cultural and philosophical aspects of her native country, South Korea. Her installations, performances, photographs, videos and site-specific projects address themes that range from the role of women to the importance of the individual in the modern world. Rong Rong initially specialised in photography before progressing to other actions and performances. He is one of the artists who has made a decisive contribution to the development of contemporary Chinese art.

Alongside these artists are names whose work has already been exhibited at the CAC Málaga. One such is Andy Warhol, the undisputed leader of American pop art in the 1960s. Involved in the world of design and decoration at the beginning of his career, he went on to create a diverse body of work that includes painting, sculpture, installation, experimental film, serial editions, traditional portraiture and the publication of magazines. Michel Basquiat, whose work appears next to

Warhol's, initially earned a name for himself as a graffiti artist in Manhattan. Together with Warhol and Francesco Clemente he formed part of an art collective that combined publication in magazines with music and film-making.

Louise Bourgeois, one of the most influential figures in contemporary art, started out as a painter but gradually evolved towards sculpture, exploring themes in which she reflects on the changes brought about by feminism and postmodernism. One of the most influential and experimental contemporary artists is Anish Kapoor, renowned for his site-specific installations and his use of stone, steel, glass, wood, plastic, wax and vaseline. His work represents a fusion between oriental and western art. Sylvie Fleury examines the legacy of pop art and uses media like sculpture, painting, photography, video and neon to create a uniquely personal formal language. Peter Halley is one of the leading figures working with geometric abstraction.

Olafur Eliasson is an artist who combines architecture and physics (optics) with enormous sensibility and applies them to public spaces. His installations attempt to explain the relationship between technology and nature. Günther Förg uses different media like painting, sculpture and photography. His paintings are abstract and defined by the use of monochrome colours and their monumental size. Jenny Holzer uses words and phrases to highlight aspects like sexuality, death and love. Posters, billboards, light projections, stickers and T-shirts are her vehicles of expression. Bill Viola is one of the pioneers of video art. His works showcase universal human experiences, uniting the language of western art with oriental spiritual traditions.

Other artists, in this case Spanish, include Susy Gómez, whose artistic discourse centres around the themes of the body and identity; Chema Alvargonzález, whose conceptual approach consists in viewing the city as an element of reflection and a catalyst of new realities, meanings and visions; Miquel Barceló, an icon of expressionist figurative painting whose works maintain a constant dialogue with the history of art; Juan Uslé, who focuses on abstraction and is continually experimenting, influenced by philosophical ideas and multi-culturalism; Txomin Badiola, who started out as a painter but ended up embracing sculpture within the constructivist avant-garde movement. Later on he also turned his attention to media like video and photography; Juan Muñoz, whose work evidences a nod to magic, illusion and theatre. From the outset he created architectural elements, ordinary objects that we often fail to notice, like balconies, floors and columns, initially empty and then populated with human figures.

Alongside these artists we find Cristina Iglesias, who has transformed the concept of sculpture in the field of installation, using assorted materials like concrete, alabaster, resin, iron and glass, sometimes combined with

plant motifs and different techniques. Her work fuses the organic with the material; Susana Solano, who arrived on the art scene in the mid-1980s with her metal sculptures. Although she uses industrial materials, her works express emotional states and convey an intimate, poetic vision; José Manuel Broto is one of the protagonists in the revival of abstract painting; and finally, José María Cano, who is not only a musician and composer but a collector and visual artist. Since 2002 he has been dedicated exclusively to painting and the encaustic technique in particular, which uses pigmented wax on canvas. The economy, politics, power and artistic creation are recurring themes in his work.