

PEP DURAN DIBUIXAR ELS DIES



PRESS NOTE

Exhibition: Pep Duran. Draw the days

Place: Fundació Vallpalou

Address: Roger de Llúria, 2, 25005 Lleida

Curator: Pilar Parcerisas

Opening: 6 de febrer, 19h.

Dates: February 7th - April 18th

Vallpalou Foundation in Lleida begins a new stage of programming exhibitions and activities under the direction of **Pilar Parcerisas**, art critic, art historian and independent exhibition curator.

The first scheduled exhibition in 2020 is dedicated to **Pep Duran**, with the title *Draw the Days*, in which this artist displays his work process in the manner of an essay that brings

together “macrocollages” of various genres based on drawing and sculpture through 60 works, between collages and objects that constitute his graphic and vital memory.

How to describe this life period? Pep Duran does it from collecting papers, wood, objects, scribbling and fragments of a retrieved reality. He acts as a collector of scraps time left behind and gives new breath to the life of a time that has been shattered like the memory of life itself. Despite searching for the structure of this unit, it all ends up as splinters of the day’s leftovers and he strives to add forms, as in a dress, fragments and patterns: a sleeve, a neck, a fist, a hat. Collecting the days, with its tangle, disorder and inevitable accumulation unites man with the chaos of his life. A poet of time, he draws the days with these collages; they are his notebooks.

The same artist has defined his work as a “collection of images and forms accumulated and selected over the years with a vocation in “graphic diet” and objectual, a small personal *imago mundis* where the intentional and deliberate order, chance, cohabit, the relational world build an open narrative”. For Pep Duran, these drawings form “a long visual poem, a silent play, which finally makes up a great visual palimpsest”.

In this visual narrative, in which memory and archive are permanently activated and reactivated in constant construction, destruction and reconstruction, it is worth noting the presence of some specific works or series, such as the oldest work, from the Raining *Hands* (1981), a *Lipotípi*a (1984), sculpture *Like a forest* (1987), two works on the theatrical floor of Jean Genet's *The Funambulo* (1989), the *Gradas* series (2009) referring to the theatrical space, ten collages of the *Amorfa* series (2012-2014) and a set of Beckett-like works that reflect the absurd and distressing nature of the human condition.

A good theatrical set designer, this move to Lleida and in the Vallpalou Foundation, the "on-site" installation that Pep Duran has made with the old bedside tables of the Vall Palou family stands out, due to **Teresa Vall Palou's** generosity.

On Thursday, February 6, at 7 p.m. Pilar Parcerisas and the poet Ester Xargay will present the exhibition together. **Ester Xargay** will also say some words in remembrance of the Lleida poet Carles Hac Mor (1940-2016), and her vision of Pep Duran's work. The artist will then lead a guided tour of the exhibition with his own comments.

In particular, we appreciate the collaboration of the artist, the Rocío Santa Cruz gallery, Josep-Miquel García and the Museu de Granollers and its director, Glòria Fusté.

For meeting the artist or the curator, contact La Fundacio Vallpalou, 973 254 937
fvp@fundaciolalpalou.org or Pilar Parcerisas, Ph. 660827023 parcerisas.pilar@gmail.com

Biography:

Pep Duran Esteva (Vilanova y la Geltrú, 1955), painter, sculptor and set designer, is an artist who has one foot in art and the other in the theater. His talent showed in the late 70s and early 80s with projects such as *Raining Hands* (1981). He is an indispensable figure in order to understand the new artistic takes of the 80s and 90s, decades not yet sufficiently analyzed, in which he showed great activity in Spanish museums. The Reina Sofía Museum offers in its collection the work *Personal Maps*, *The Geometry of the Body* and the MACBA 30 collages from 2007 of the series *No Stage*, *Marburg Suite*. His work is available in private collections like the Vila Casas Foundation and the Rafael Tous Collection. Recently he has shown the exhibition "Orb" (2018) at the National Theater of Catalonia (TNC) and "Sleeping Papers" (2019) at the Granollers Museum, an institution that preserves the work *Build the Days* (1995) a sculptural installation in which Pep Duran cut up sculptural pieces in order to recycle them in one single installation. The current exhibition, *Draw the Days*, presented in Lleida, counterbalances this.