



Specials > JUAN MUÑOZ'S WORKS FOR RADIO

The *Specials* programs focus on projects by artists and curators who have some kind of connection to the Museum's programming and the MACBA Collection. Over the next few months, *Specials* will recover and broadcast the radio works created by Juan Muñoz, one of the artists whose work is represented in the MACBA Collection.

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From 1992 to 2001, Juan Muñoz carried out a series of works using materials that we would not expect to find in the hands of a sculptor: the voice, music, sound. Muñoz conceived and made these works specifically for radio so that they would circulate through the airwaves at a particular moment of the day and reach listeners who had tuned in, either by choice or by chance. Radio Web MACBA is going back to these radio works with the aim of bringing them to a wider audience and having them recognised as an additional element of the artist's work along with the sculpture and writing he carried out simultaneously and without a break, and in order to go beyond the physical space that Juan Muñoz occupies within the MACBA Collection.

Building for Music (1993), *A Man in a Room Gambling* (1992), *Will it Be a Likeness?* (1996) and *A Registered Patent* (2001-2002) use sound, the voice and music as their basic raw materials. They all have something in common – an element that was of special interest to the artist: they had to be broadcast on public radio stations.

JUAN MUÑOZ'S WORKS FOR RADIO

01. "Will it Be a Likeness" (1996)

Of all the works produced by Muñoz, "Will it Be a Likeness" is probably the most theatrical, as shown by the elements we see on stage, the way in which a series of different actions coexist simultaneously and the dramatic implications that arise from this. It is also the least musical of the radio works we have included in this selection. The sound accompanying this piece is performed live through the actions of a *foley artist* who does his job in full view of the audience. Once again, that which should be absent from the stage takes on an exaggerated presence. On stage, the writer John Berger reads his own homonymous text while at the same time a translator offers the audience another version of Berger's words. The machinery becomes visible once again, and this time the sound does too, because rather than reaching receivers through the air waves, it rides on the words of Berger. Three beautiful young women appear and sit on three chairs located at the front of the stage. A magician makes them disappear while the author continues reading his text. On completion of the reading, and therefore the work, the lights are gradually switched off and a new light source reveals a figure standing before the audience, in the proscenium, moving his lips as though he were pronouncing inaudible words.

02. Technical details

Text by John Berger

50'

Directed by Juan Muñoz and Tom Stromberg

Cast: John Berger/Bernd Hahn

Magician: André Sarasini

Sound: Mel Kutbay

Production: HAR/TAT Frankfurt

Performed at the Theater am Turm, Frankfurt am Main in June 1996.
Broadcasted at Hessischer Rundfunk and the BBC.





[John Berger, Juan Muñoz and Tom Stromberg at the rehearsal of the performance "Will it Be a Likeness", 1996]

03. Works by Juan Muñoz in the MACBA Collection

"London Balcony" 1987 Escultura/3 dimensiones

http://www.macba.es/controller.php?p_action=show_page&pagina_id=29&inst_id=18318

"Popular Songs III" 1987 Instalación

http://www.macba.es/controller.php?p_action=show_page&pagina_id=29&inst_id=18317

"The Nature of Visual Illusion" 1994 Escultura/3 dimensiones

http://www.macba.es/controller.php?p_action=show_page&pagina_id=29&inst_id=22253

04. Acknowledgements

Cristina Iglesias (Estate de Juan Muñoz), John Berger, La Casa Encendida and Bartomeu Marí.

05. Copyright note

This work for radio is a production of the Artangel Gallery, in London (James Lingwood), in collaboration with Gavin Byars Ensemble.

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