



Specials > FONS ÀUDIO

The *Specials* podcasts focus on projects by artists and curators who have some kind of connection to the Museum's programming and the MACBA Collection. Conceived as an audiovisual project, FONS ÀUDIO is a documentary series in which artists from the MACBA Collection talk about their work.

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Produced by Lucrecia Dalt. Interview and documentation: Dolores Acebal.

FONS ÀUDIO #32

Jorge Ribalta

Jorge Ribalta is an artist, critic and curator. His photographic series explore contemporary systems of representation, analyse the contradictions inherent to the document, and defend the validity of documentary practices as a means of understanding social reality. In FONS AUDIO #32 Jorge Ribalta talks about his working processes, about the intersections between artistic and social practices, and about the links between creation, pleasure, and knowledge.

01. Summary

Field Works was a monographic exhibition on the work of Jorge Ribalta (Barcelona, 1963) held at galería àngels barcelona gallery from December 2012 to March 2013. The title referred both to a working method based on empirical and anthropological observation, and to the specific analysis of the 'cultural field', which Ribalta analysed and scrutinised with his camera. The works in the show reflected these premises and were a turning point in relation to Ribalta's earlier oeuvre.

Sur l'herbe (2005-2008) –which is part of the MACBA Collection–; *Trabajo anónimo*, *Iracheta SL*, *Can Ricart*, *Poblenou* (2005); *Petit Grand Tour*, *Tarragona, 29 agosto – 6 octubre 2007* (2007-2008); *Laocoonte salvaje* (2010-2011); *Scrambling* (2011) and *Imperio (o K.D.)* (2013-2014) are series that explore contemporary forms of work and leisure arising from our cultural systems, and at the same time update the concepts of the document and documentary practice. In contrast to current post-photographic discourses that theorise in real time about the death of photography, Ribalta defends the need to restore political currency to the photographic document as a means of representation and analysis of social processes, as a critical method for studying the ideological dimension of images, and, ultimately, as a tool for unmasking the strategies of power.

Ribalta works with large series of black and white photographs, which he takes with an analogue camera and develops himself in his darkroom. These series take over the exhibition space, setting up meaningful relationships between the images and immersing the viewer in the epicentre of a modality of public and relational space that is essentially photographic.

Since his first exhibition at Forum gallery in Tarragona in 1988, Ribalta's work has been exhibited in many solo shows –Zabriskie Gallery in New York (1994, 2000 and 2005), Casa sin fin gallery (Cáceres, 2011 / Madrid, 2012), àngels barcelona gallery (2012-2013), and Centro José Guerrero de Granada (2015)–, and group exhibitions including *F/Stop 2. Internationales Fotografiefestival Leipzig*, Leipzig (2008); *Playgrounds. Reinventing the Square* at Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid (2014) and *The Beast and the Sovereign* at MACBA in Barcelona (2015).

Ribalta was Director of MACBA's Public Programmes Department from 1999 to 2009. He has edited several books and curated numerous exhibitions, including: *Jo Spence. Beyond the Perfect Image. Photography, Subjectivity, Antagonism* (MACBA, 2005); *Universal Archive. The Condition of the Document and the Modern Photographic Utopia* (MACBA, 2008); *A Harsh, Merciless Light. The Worker Photography Movement, 1926-1939* (Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, 2011); *Not Yet. On the Reinvention of Documentary and the Critique of Modernism* (Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, 2015).

02. Timeline

- 00:50 *Sur l'herbe*
- 07:13 Image archeology



[Jorge Ribalta during the interview. Photo: Gemma Planell/MACBA, 2015]

12:52 Photography, seriality and the construction of public space

17:07 *Trabajos de campo*

19:33 Work methodology

24:16 Analogue cameras

27:46 Artistic practice – Social practice

03. Works by Jorge Ribalta in the MACBA Collection

Sur l'herbe, 2005-2008

MACBA Collection. MACBA Foundation. Repsol Foundation

www.macba.cat/en/sur-lherbe-5027

04. Related links

Jorge Ribalta at Àngels Barcelona gallery

angelsbarcelona.com/en/artists/jorge-ribalta

Jorge Ribalta. Monument Machine, exhibition at Centro José Guerrero in Granada and Fundación Helga de Alvear de Cáceres, 2015. Press release

fundacionhelgadealvear.es/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Nota_prensa_Ribalta.pdf

'Jorge Ribalta. Monumento máquina', article by Juan Jesús Torres Jurado in *Artecontexto*, 11 March 2015

www.artcontexto.com/es/blog/jorge_ribalta_monumento_maquina_.html

Interview with Jorge Ribalta by Antonio Pomet in *El blog del Guerrero*, 10 March 2015

blogcentroguerrero.org/2015/03/entrevista-a-jorge-ribalta/

'Jorge Ribalta. Monumento máquina', article by Antonio Pomet in *El blog del Guerrero*, 19 January 2015

blogcentroguerrero.org/2015/01/monumento-maquina-jorge-ribalta/

'Geografía del flamenco', article by Amelia Julia Castilla Alcolado in *El País*, 14 August 2013

cultura.elpais.com/cultura/2013/08/14/actualidad/1376499460_593186.html

Interview with Jorge Ribalta in *Oral Memories*. Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, 2013

oralmemories.com/jorge-ribalta/

Field Works, exhibition at Àngels Barcelona gallery, 2012-2013

angelsbarcelona.com/en/artists/jorge-ribalta/exhibitions/trabajos-de-campo/69

Petit Grand Tour, exhibition at Casa sin fin, Cáceres, 2012

www.casasinfin.com/jorge-ribalta/

Laoconte salvaje, exhibition at Casa sin fin, Madrid, 2012

www.casasinfin.com/jorge-ribalta-madrid/

'La Alhambra, el monumento convertido en fábrica', article by Ángeles García Vargas in *El País*, 18 June 2012

cultura.elpais.com/cultura/2012/06/18/actualidad/1340019600_171976.html

05. Credits

Produced by Lucrecia Dalt. Voice: Lucrecia Dalt and Roc Jiménez de Cisneros. Documentation and interview: Dolores Acebal. Recorded with Beyerdynamic MC 930, a Tascam DR-100 recorder and edited with Ableton.



[Jorge Ribalta, *Sur l'herbe*, 2005-2008]

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