

Abelardo Gil-Fournier

Mireia c. Saladrigues

Maria Arnal

APORIES SOBRE L'LAIRE

Fito Conesa

Job Ramos

Curators: **Olga Subirós** and **Ingrid Guardiola**

Pep Vidal

Oriol Riverola (a.k.a. John Talabot)

Núria Merino

From 16 February to 19 May 2024

Bòlit_LaRambla

Bòlit_PouRodó

Bòlit_StNicolau

Bòlit_LaRambla

Rambla de la Llibertat, 1 17004 Girona

Monday to Friday from 9 am to 7 pm
Saturdays from 9 am to 2 pm & from 3 pm to 7 pm
Sundays and public holidays from 9 am to 2 pm

Bòlit_PouRodó

Plaça del Pou Rodó, 7-9 17004 Girona

Wednesdays from 10 am to 2 pm
Thursday and Friday from 10 am to 2 pm & from 5 pm to 7 pm
Saturdays from 11 am to 2 pm & from 5 pm to 7 pm
Sundays and public holidays from 11 am to 2 pm

Bòlit_StNicolau

Plaça de Santa Llúcia, 1 17004 Girona

Wednesdays from 10 am to 2 pm
Thursday and Friday from 10 am to 2 pm & from 5 pm to 7 pm
Saturdays from 11 am to 2 pm & from 5 pm to 7 pm
Sundays and public holidays from 11 am to 2 pm

Bòlit, Centre d'Art Contemporani. Girona

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Ho organitza:



Amb el suport de:

Sabadell
Fundació



Hi col·laboren:



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Girona
Cultura

"What sort of air do you breathe in it?"

How do you become aware of living condition
inside this glass house?

What sort of technical crew is in attendance?

What is to be 'inside something'?"

—Bruno Latour, *Air* (2005)

The air is the space of the "imagination of movement" (Gaston Bachelard), of dynamism, of life. As Lyall Watson says in *Heaven's Breath: a Natural History of the Wind* (1985), "But with the wind, Earth comes truly alive"; and "Without wind, most of Earth would be uninhabitable."

This basic element for survival on Earth has often been a space for dreams, for the creation of myths. The dead would go up to heaven; the sky has always been associated with freedom. For centuries, it served as a guide, as an axis mundi. Astronomical observations can be traced back to as early as 1,000 BC, in Assyro-Babylonian culture. The air is also the space of birds and insects, of utopian mythology – flying is intrinsically linked to falling –, of unthinkable beasts, of God's threat, of language made sound and light, of the changing chromatic score of each day. With the advent of aerial technology (aerial photography, aerostats...) at the end of the 19th century, the air became a space that afforded a commanding view of the territory, enabling the individual to occupy the place of an all-seeing God: from Nadar's aerial photography of Paris in 1858 to the use of aerial photography during the First World War. Finally, the air has become an arena of constant geopolitical conflict. As the philosopher Achille Mbembe points out, the occupation of the skies acquires critical importance, since most policing and environmental actions take place from the air. The air is also everything that we cannot see and it is everywhere, acting as a conduit. The air keeps us alive; if we do not breathe, we die. "Everything that is solid dissolves in air," state Engels and Marx in *The Communist Manifesto*. All living things dissolve, but while we think of air as being weightless and harmless, this prodigious element has mass, which it transfers through a medium characterised by its capacity for rapid propagation and physical-chemical connectivity. In Hiroshima and Chernobyl, the air was lethal. Chernobyl spread everywhere. Air is a medium (EVA HORN), but one which is colonised (MAX LIBOIRON).

Faced with the scientific evidence that air pollution in cities is a killer and that this public health crisis is inseparable from the climate emergency and the Covid pandemic, this programme invites us to think about our relationship with the air and about the need to overhaul a system that prioritises the logic of the neoliberal economy over the health of its inhabitants.

Invoking the universal right to breathe (ACHILLE MBEMBE), the exhibition also highlights the importance of the Covid-19 pandemic in how we think about the air and the relationship we have – both in the scientific sphere and as citizens – with the invisible particles that are part of our ecosystems.

The air as an arena of poetic-political struggle from a physical, nanometric and environmental perspective is explored in the works of artists such as **Maria Arnal**, **Fito Conesa**, **Oriol Riverola (a.k.a. John Talabot)**, **Mireia c. Saladrigues** and **Pep Vidal**. The second aspect addressed by the exhibition is of a more speculative and poetic nature: How do we relate to that which we cannot see? What is our relationship with the air? How does this element of planetary scope interact with matter? And with our own breathing? This investigation features newly created projects by **Abelardo Gil-Fournier**, **Job Ramos** and **Núria Merino**.

Works - Bòlit_LaRambla

Abelardo Gil-Fournier

- 1 *El códec de los vientos (The Codec of the Winds), 2023-2024*
Multimedia installation
- 2 *Como muda consonancia vibrante (As a Mutely Vibrating Consonant), 2023-2024*
Multimedia installation

Mireia c. Saladrigues

- 3 *In Suspension, 2020*
Video, 6'07"

Works - Bòlit_PouRodó

Fito Conesa

- 4 *Anòxia. Un preludi constant (Anoxia. A Constant Prelude), 2023*
Cinemascope video, 25' 00"
- 5 *Sinfonia para Rouyn-Noranda (Symphony for Rouyn-Noranda), 2022*
4K video, 12'34"
Private collection

Núria Merino

- 6 *Les costes de l'aire: seqüències (The Shores of the Air: sequences), 2022-2023*
24 vector drawings. Digital prints
- 7 *Les costes de l'aire: diagrames de la respiració (The Shores of the Air: diagrams of breathing), 2022-2023*
26 vector drawings. Digital prints

Pep Vidal

- 8 *It's Easy to Cross a Border (If You Are a Cloud), 2022*
Video 2K, 4' 33"
- 9 *Blown Tire, 2017-2022*
Car tyre and stick
- 10 *Amazon Air, 2022*
Bubble wrap, ink and Plexiglas urn
22 parts: 13 x 13 x 13 cm / urn
- 11 *Paris Air, 2022*
Bubble wrap, ink and Plexiglas urn
2 parts: 13 x 13 x 13 cm / urna
- 12 *Very Ancient Air, 2022*
Amber stone and documents
- 13 *Sobre l'efecte de l'altitud de l'atmosfera terrestre (On the Effect of the Altitude of the Earth's Atmosphere), 2024*
Intervened painting

Works - Bòlit_StNicolau

Maria Arnal i Oriol Riverola (a.k.a. John Talabot)

- 14 *L'aire canta: aria (The Air Sings: Aria), 2021*
Musical composition

Job Ramos

- 15 *El contramotlle de les coses (The Counter-Mould of Things), 2023-2024*
Sound installation, sculptures, videos and text

Public Programme

Saturday 24 February at 12 pm
Cinema Truffaut
Showing of the trilogy *Anòxia*, *Symphony for Rouyn-Noranda* and *Helicon*
Presented by **Fito Conesa** and featuring a performance by the mezzosoprano **Claudia Schneider**

Friday 1 March at 7 pm
Bòlit_LaRambla / Bòlit_PouRodó / Bòlit_StNicolau

Guided visit of "Aporias on the Air"
With **Olga Subirós** and **Ingrid Guardiola**

Friday 22 March from 10 am to 2 pm
Sala de Graus (Graduate Hall) of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Girona

Seminar "Aporias on the Air"
With **Ingrid Guardiola**, **Blanca Pujals**, **Laia Romero**, **Olga Subirós** and **Pep Vidal**

18.30 h
CC La Mercè
With **Abelardo Gil-Fournier** and **Nerea Calvillo**

Friday 5 April, all day
Espai Cràter d'Olot

Seminar "Painting, Colour, Vision and Landscape"
With **Iñaki Álvarez**, **Toni Arola**, **Joan Casadevall**, **Ignasi Esteve**, **Miriam Garcia**, **Jordi Morell**, **Àlex Nogué**, **Lucas Peries**, **Laura Puigbert** and **Ariadna Rodríguez**
Organised by the Landscape Observatory

22-25 April
Sala de Graus (Graduate Hall) of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Girona

Ferrater Mora Lectures: A Conversation with the Philosopher **Achille Mbembe**

Saturday 13 April at 12 pm
Bòlit_PouRodó

Fun-experimental workshop for families: "Respiratorium. Air as a symbol of equality"
Organised by **Eurisca**

Friday 26 April at 7 pm
Cathedral / La Carbonera / Bòlit_StNicolau

"Meditative tour of three sound environments in Girona"
With **Maria Arnal**

Friday 3 May at 7 pm
(A)parador 22 / Espai 22

Presentation of the window gallery and the publishing "Les costes de l'aire" ("The Shores of the Air") by **Núria Merino**
Organised by **(A)parador 22**

Friday 10 May at 7 pm
Bòlit_LaRambla / Bòlit_PouRodó / Bòlit_StNicolau

Guided visit of "Aporias on the Air" and presentation of the accompanying publication
With **Olga Subirós** and **Ingrid Guardiola**

"I like living, breathing, better than working. I don't think that the work I've done can have any social importance whatsoever in the future."
—Marcel Duchamp

