

The MACBA announces the artists who will participate in the first edition of Panorama

PANORAMA

The MACBA presents the first edition of Panorama, a new line of collective exhibitions that reflects the museum's desire to deepen its collaboration and dialogue with local artists and cultural agents.

Panorama puts the spotlight on current artistic practices in and around Barcelona, basing itself on the study of an artistic scene from different perspectives. With this new initiative, the museum is emphasizing its desire to foment the creation of new works and present them together with recent works being exhibited in the city for the first time.

Each edition of Panorama will be directed by a different curatorial team consisting of one member from the MACBA, together with an independent curator or collective.

PANORAMA 21. NOTES FOR AN EYE FIRE

“Si cremes un sentit / obtens un repertori de fantasmes”
[If you burn a sense / you gain a repertoire of ghosts]
– *Apunts per a un incendi dels ulls*, Gabriel Ventura

The first edition of Panorama will open with the exhibition *Notes for an Eye Fire*, curated by Hiuwai Chu (MACBA) and Latitudes (Max Andrews and Mariana Cánepa Luna). The exhibition will be on display from October 22nd, 2021 to February 27th, 2022 and occupy the entire top floor of the Meier building.

With the participation of: Ana Domínguez, El Palomar (Mariokissime and R. Marcos Mota), Laia Estruch, Arash Fayez, Antoni Hervàs, Rasmus Nilausen, Nyamnyam (Ariadna Rodríguez and Iñaki Álvarez) with Pedro Pineda, Claudia Pagès, Aleix Plademunt, Marria Pratts, Stella Rahola Matutes, Eulàlia Rovira, Ruta de autor (Aymara Arreaza R. and Lorena Bou Linhares), Adrian Schindler, Rosa Tharrats, Gabriel Ventura, and Marc Vives.

The exhibition is not driven by one overarching subject, and yet the works on display weave together certain concerns and motifs arising from the curators' studio visits and conversations with the artistic community, such as **the city's self-image, ideas of reparation and belonging, gender dissidence and our relationship with non-human life**. As the word “notes” in the title suggests, this collective exhibition seeks to take note, reveal and connect without being definitive in any way.

Notes for an Eye Fire brings together works that were especially commissioned for the occasion along with recent productions, all being shown in Barcelona for the first time. It comprises a wide range of disciplines, including painting, sculpture, works on paper, video installation, performance, photography, and textiles.

The title of the exhibition, borrowed from a book of poetry by Gabriel Ventura (*Apunts per a un incendi dels ulls*, Documents documenta, 2020), conjures a powerful metaphor that

provokes a rethinking of sight, urging us to explore an expanded definition of seeing that engages our other senses and different forms of accessing knowledge. The burning eye might be thought of not simply as a loss, but as an acquisition of novel forms of perception that also entail new ways of navigating the world, of remembering and producing memory.

This broader consideration of the sensorial in the exhibition has developed in parallel to an exploration of the conceptual and historical underpinnings of panorama itself. The word “panorama” was coined in the 18th century to describe vast 360-degree paintings housed in cylindrical buildings built for that purpose. Contemplating them from a raised platform, the public enjoyed a commanding view that was nevertheless a disorientating visual experience. Long before the invention of cinema and the proliferation of screens that now characterises contemporary life for many of us, the panorama was the virtual reality headset of its time and became a form of mass entertainment in Europe at a moment when travel had not been possible due to the Napoleonic wars. Barcelona hosted three such panoramas during the Universal Exposition of 1888.

The circular form of both the eye and the panorama takes on a life of its own in the exhibition’s imagination, embodied in projects that explore theatre or performance, the spatial relationship between stage and auditorium and the loop as narrative. Such perspectives and scales also encompass the way the museum establishes a connection with its neighbourhood and vice versa, at a time in which we are perhaps all questioning and re-visualizing what our own place in the world might be.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMES / WEB / PUBLICATION

The public programming around *Notes for an Eye Fire* will be a mix of in-person and online activities, from workshops and events in the exhibition galleries to online conversations between participating artists. (Detailed information to come closer to the opening date.)

The project will also have an expanded presence on the museum’s website, which will feature a webpage dedicated to each artist, with complementary material in varied formats related to their artistic practice and production. The website will be updated with new content throughout the exhibition period.

A publication, designed by Ana Domínguez, will be released in 2022 (date tbd) and will include a conversation among the curators, an essay by Gabriel Ventura and curatorial texts about the participating artists, accompanied by reproductions of their work.

#PanoramaMACBA

<http://www.macba.cat/en/panorama>