



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 Roc Jiménez de Cisneros. Interview and documentation: Roc Jiménez de Cisneros.

FONS ÀUDIO #15

Ignasi Aballí

From obsessive classifications to anti-paintings, from a constant probing of the role of the spectator to imperceptible modifications, Ignasi Aballí's work is both hermetic and accessible. A delicate balance between concept and form that draws inspiration from everyday life, literature and film in order to talk about absences, filters, fictions and limits. FONS ÀUDIO #15 charts a course through the core ideas of this Barcelona artist's body of work, through four pieces that are part of the MACBA Collection: *Pols* (1991), *Pell I* (1995), *Gran error* (1998) and *Desaparicions II* (2005).

01. Summary

The work of Ignasi Aballí (Barcelona, 1958) explores the relationship between the artist and the spectator and their immediate environment. Day-to-day life in Aballí's Barcelona studio, and everything that surrounds the artist in other areas of his life, becomes a constant source of ideas for testing the limits of his work as a creator. Thus, in spite of his classical training in Fine Arts, Aballí's practice quickly evolved towards an almost absolute prevalence of concept. Gradually, he devised strategies to distance himself from the process and the actual work, as the act of painting became problematic. Aballí broadens his analysis of limits to the formalisation of his works, which often challenge the perception of spectators, and forces them to complete the piece through observation, according to the maxim by which 'the less there is to see in a work, the greater will be the desire to see it.'

The wish to 'contemplate reality from a different point of view, to change it' is put in practice by means of commonplace objects, materials and rituals, structural nuances and details that Aballí draws attention to in a discourse rooted in the notions of fiction and hyperreality, both within art and outside of it. An embodiment of obsessive behaviour, Aballí's work springs from an artistic practice that combines additive techniques and processes (layers of dust transformed into artworks, the accumulation of information from the media) with subtractive ones (reflections, scripts for unmade films, images deleted with tipex, fluff collected from the filter of a clothes dryer, clear layers of paint peeled off the canvas). Aballí mines this additive/subtractive binomial to create pieces in which the idea is always more important than the image, and entropy carries more weight than the artist's gesture, which fades gently in parallel to ephemeral materials and constructions that assimilate the passing of time as an essential part of the creative process.

02. Works by Ignasi Aballí in the MACBA Collection

Sense límit, 1989
MACBA Collection. Government of Catalonia Art Fund
www.macba.cat/en/ignasi-aballi-sense-limit

Tres bolígrafs, 1990
MACBA Collection. MACBA Foundation. Private long-term loan, Barcelona
www.macba.cat/en/1666-

Pols, 1991
MACBA Collection. Fundació MACBA. Private long-term loan, Barcelona
www.macba.cat/en/ignasi-aballi-pols

Sense títol, 1994
MACBA Collection. MACBA Foundation. Private long-term loan, Barcelona
www.macba.cat/en/1668-



[Ignasi Aballí during the recording of FONS ÀUDIO, Gemma Planell / MACBA, 2012]

Enciclopèdia, 1994

MACBA Collection. MACBA Foundation. Gift of Jordi Soley
www.macba.cat/en/1669-

Pell 1, 1995

MACBA Collection. MACBA Foundation. Gift of Jordi Soley
www.macba.cat/en/ignasi-aballi-pell-1

Gran error, 1998

MACBA Collection. MACBA Foundation. Gift of Jordi Soley
www.macba.cat/es/1671-

Desaparicions II, 2005

MACBA Collection. MACBA Foundation. Fundación Repsol Collection
www.macba.cat/en/desaparicions-ii-1

Rètol (Museum), 2006

MACBA Collection. MACBA Foundation. Fundació MACBA Edition, 2006
www.macba.cat/en/3827-

03. Related links

Aballí's website
www.ignasiaballi.net

Max Andrews' review of Aballí's show at MACBA for *Frieze magazine*
www.frieze.com/issue/review/ignasi_aballi

Text on the exhibition *O - 24 H* (MACBA, 2005-2006)
www.macba.cat/es/expo-ignasi-aballi

Essays from the exhibition catalogue *O - 24 H* (PDFs)
www.macba.cat/en/ignasi-aballi--0-24-h

04. Credits

Produced by Roc Jiménez de Cisneros. Voice: Lucrecia Dalt and Roc Jiménez de Cisneros. Documentation and interview: Roc Jiménez de Cisneros. Recorded with Beyerdynamic MC 930 and edited with Sound Studio by Felt Tip Inc.

05. Licence

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