

**Exhibition:** Miquel Barceló (Photography by Jean-Marie del Moral)  
IVAM Centre Julio González  
January 20<sup>th</sup> to March 21<sup>st</sup> 2004

**Curator:** Alberto Anaut

**Organised by:** Institut Valencià d'Art Modern IVAM

The exhibition will comprise some 80 photographs taken between 1985 and the present day by the Franco-Spanish photographer Jean-Marie del Moral, who accompanied Miquel Barceló as a travelling companion on his adventures. From Paris to Barcelona, from Palermo to Gao, from Farrutx in Majorca to Segou, Del Moral has elaborated a colourful biography of the artist's life through his studios, his objects, dozens of little details that make up his complex universe. All these photographs that could be defined as a travel book and allow us to see the personal and artistic evolution of the Spanish artist most acclaimed on an international scale, who has recently been awarded the Premio Príncipe de Asturias for Art.

Besides, a 26-minute video titled *Les ateliers de Barceló* will be shown, a series of animated black and white photographs that constitute a travel book around the Majorcan artist's different studios during the seven years before it was made in 1992.

The exhibition revolves around several series titled according to the place and the year they were taken: Avenue de Breteuil 1985, Cúpula

Barcelona 1988, Farrutx 1987-1988, Gao 1988, Segou 1991, Pays Dogon 2000, Buttes Chaumont 1989-90, Opera Comique 1989, Palermo 1998, Les Rairies 1999-2000, Lanzarote 2002, Rue Vieille du Temple 1992-2002. These series, which show Barceló's evolution in time and work, recreate a painter's path with its twists and turns, its doubts and its searches, the traces of his memory of places and time.

When he met Miquel Barceló in his studio in Paris back in 1985, while he was preparing his first exhibition at the Castelli Gallery in New York, Jean-Marie del Moral had no way of knowing he was about to embark on an extraordinary voyage that would turn him into a privileged witness of the life and creative development of that unknown young painter, who has attained great fame today. The photographer felt the same sensation that he had experienced some years earlier when he entered the studio of another great painter, Joan Miró: an authentic revelation that changed his career and transformed him from a news reporter to a chronicler of contemporary art. Then he met Antonio Saura, Miguel Ángel Campano, Antoni Clavé, Baltasar Lobo and many other artists.

The result of his work, now exhibited at the IVAM, has been published in the catalogue *Los estudios de Barceló*, which gives us an opportunity to see not only the work but also the human being who observes and transforms what he sees into art. Two glances that have travelled together over two decades for our enjoyment.

JEAN-MARIE DEL MORAL.- Born in France in 1952, the son of Spanish republican exiles, Jean-Marie del Moral has trained his camera on the private studios of important painters, a world that has fascinated him since he first met Joan Miró in 1977. His great collection of pictures

conforms an intense exploration of the private creative universes of many painters of international repute, including, apart from Miró, Sam Szafran, Soulages, Fenosa... The resulting pictures show naked or sophisticated interiors, but always concerned with his preoccupation for the object, the decoration and artists in the midst of their crowded studios concentrating to the limits of their inspiration.

Jean-Marie del Moral's photographic work can be found in both public and private collections all over the world. His pictures of Barceló were shown for the first time at the international exhibition in Arles, France, in 1988. He has published books on the studios of Miró, Picasso and Van Gogh, and is a well-known collaborator of *Vogue*, *Travel & Leisure*, *World of Interiors*, *Art Kunstmagazin*, *El País*, *Beaux Arts*, *The Observer*, *Time* and *Figaro Madame*, among other publications. He has also made several documentaries, like *Ram Dam*, for the French Canal 3 or a series of portraits of artists: Pierre Soulages, Yvon Lambert, Richard Texier, Mariscal, Manuel Vázquez Montalbán, Picasso and things and, in 1992, Barceló's studios. His work as a photographer has been shown in a series of important exhibitions, such as *Los tiempos de la pintura* in the Musée Donjon, in Niort (1987), or the one held a year later at the Galería Eude in Barcelona. In 1989 he exhibited at the International Photography Encounters in Arles and he has been present at the FIAC through the Catalan gallery Carles Taché. He has published various books of photographs, among which it is worth mentioning *Photographies*, brought out by the Association L'Oeil.

At the present time, he dedicates himself to photography, the publication of books and the making of documentaries.