

**Exhibition:** Desde Jaime I. Hoy. Artistas emplazados por el tiempo transcurrido desde el siglo XIII

**IVAM Institut Valencià d'Art Modern**

**17th June – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

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

**Curated by:** Facundo Tomás

**Sponsored by:**



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By means of this exhibition, the IVAM makes its contribution to the acts held to commemorate the 8th centenary of the birth of James I with a display of today's art whose works allegorically refer to a crucial period in Valencian culture. The exhibition comprises two installations by Miquel Navarro (Mislata, 1945), *Ciutat roja* (Red City) and *Figuras para la batalla* (Figures for the Battle); three photosensitive sound sculptures by José Antonio Orts (Meliana, 1955) *Bosc i cavilacions* (Forest and Reflections), *Llibres, aus* (Books, Birds) and *Font i sèquies* (Fountain and Ditches); a sculpture by Manolo Valdés (Valencia, 1942), *Biblioteca* (Library) making reference to the literary condition of historic deeds, and an installation by Bernardí Roig (Palma de Mallorca, 1965) *Catastrophe (Somnium lucis)* made up of five elements: *Light Dream*, *Sound exercises*, *Colour Light exercises*, *Perplexity* and *Reflection exercises*.

On different occasions, the artists represented in the exhibition have worked on similar themes about current societies or, more precisely, the human condition, and today they construct this tribute to the passage of time that has given shape to our current society since the times of the conquest. The exhibition focuses especially on the human figure and nature as major elements of intemporal connection, and also contains references to customs and books.

From the point of view of composition, in the four cases we can see a discourse based on the *Mediterraneanness* of the installations, *in pursuit of the pleasure of the senses* as the sustenance of meaning, which addresses the presence of the visual –or audiovisual– spectacle on an anthropomorphous basis that refers

at the same time to play, joy, fun, concentration, meditation and tragedy, with forms that respond perfectly to the tastes of this postmodern 21st century.

The first of the galleries is occupied by Miquel Navarro's *Ciutat Roja*, an allegory of James I's conquest of the city of Valencia and its ensuing Christianisation. The second gallery contains Bernardí Roig's installation *Sound Exercises*, comprising a wall of fluorescent lights and a series of five tormented human figures that express suffering and tragedy. Allegories of exile, which in James I's day meant colonisation and today refers to the phenomenon of migration. In this gallery we also find the site-specific triple sound installation by José Antonio Orts, pieces whose sound is activated by visitors as they pass by.

In the third gallery, as a specific symbol of 13th century culture, we have Manolo Valdés's sculpture *Biblioteca*. Finally, accompanied by texts that allude to the capture of Valencia by James I's army, we come upon Miquel Navarro's installation *Figuras para la batalla*, made up of eight pairs of standing soldiers and four reclining figures.

For the exhibition a catalogue has been published reproducing the works exhibited and containing texts by the director of the IVAM, Consuelo Císcar, and Facundo Tomás, curator of the exhibition.

### **Educational workshop**

Aware of the importance of the figure and life of James I as a person that shaped the history of the Valencian Community, the IVAM has worked to combine passages from the *Llibre dels Feyts* and contemporary works of art to articulate knowledge, creativity, literature and plastic expression. Two specialists in museum education have visited the participating schools where they have told a story about the figure of James I, linking it with the multiple piece by Miquel Navarro *Figuras para la batalla* that forms part of the exhibition *Jaime I. Hoy* (James I. Today). Using these elements as a basis, the schoolchildren will create their own plastic armies, which will be displayed after the inauguration of the exhibition in the space the IVAM uses to hold its educational workshops.