

JAVIER VALLHONRAT

The Incised Shadow

(Interrupted Survey of a Mobile Division) 2016-2018

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Opening 10.09.2020

Aural is pleased to present Javier Vallhonrat's exhibition "The Incised Shadow. (Interrupted Survey of a Mobile Division) 2016-2018" that will open up the start of the season for galleries in Madrid, along with the galleries that we have opened in Madrid during the last year (1miramadrid, La Gran, Juan Silió, The Ryder and Carlier Gebauer).

Vallhonrat shows us a series of pieces created in the surroundings of Maladeta Glacier, where the fact that experience of time has slowed down makes sense. During the month of August, the glacier uses to lose its protecting snow cover, thus exposing its face of ice, being both impressive and vulnerable.

Taking advantage of this circumstance, the artist has remained recording fragments of the area during each month of August, for three years. To this end, he transformed a high-mountain camping tent into a camera obscura, merging a recording device and his provisional habitat in the same element.

This exhibition will include pieces as *Heliographs*, *Inclined*, *53.Profile* and a video of the process of his work and stay on the glacier. Regarding *Heliographs*, these are impressions produced by contact with fragments of ice and snow being detached from the edge of the glacier. Their imprint or mark will be recorded on watercolour paper with a fossilised appearance, produced by melting-evaporation. According to the artist, this is a process which requires about 20 to 36 hours and the result is a ghostly, beautiful, and tragic face. Paradoxical expression which pretends to remind us the glacier accumulating the traces of its disappearance.

53.Profile is a great piece of work on the basis of two iconic references: the first one is the silhouette of Maladeta Glacier, photographed by Viscount Joseph Vigier in 1853, at Portillon de Benasque. The second reference is a zenith reconstruction of the glacier, obtained by satellites from Google Earth. This work reconstructs the glacier's "face" from 53 photographic fragments, that have been obtained flying over the it. This piece confronts the idealization of zenith vision and the map with the materiality and tangible character of the different photographed surfaces, plus of the work itself, which is both virtual and physical.

Vallhonrat's work contains a strong metalinguistic component, always calling into question photographic language. The author places the viewer before perplexity and amazement of what he/she is observing, taking his/her gaze towards uncertainty between real and imaginary. This project won the 1st Fundación ENAIRE Trajectory Award 2019, therefore we have their collaboration.

BIOGRAPHY

Javier Vallhonrat (Madrid, 1953) lives and works in Madrid. Being Bachelor of Fine Arts and Psychology, a Gestalt Therapist and an Integrative Humanist Therapist, this artist chooses photography as his privileged means of research, exploring its limits as a language, and contributing to dialogue through painting, video, performance, word, or installation.

He has simultaneously developed his work with teaching activity, over more than three decades, in public and private institution in Austria, Belgium, Canada, Spain, France, Finland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, and the United Kingdom.

During the last years, he has worked in particular geoclimatic environments, carrying out long-term projects that he continues to develop today.

This artist's work has been exhibited in numerous museums and institutions around the world and he can be found in collections such as the Reina Sofía Museum in Madrid, the Grand Duc Jean of Luxembourg or the Museum of Modern Art in Philadelphia, among others.

Moreover, 17 monographs of his works have been published. His career has been recognized with numerous awards, including the National Photography Prize, the Photography Prize of the Community of Madrid, the Photography Prize of the Madrid City Council and the Bartolomé Ros Award from PhotoEspaña.