

JAVIER VALLHONRAT

*The Incised Shadow*

*(Interrupted Survey of a Mobile Division) 2016-2018*

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Opening 03.10.2020

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 Spain.

Since 2010 Javier Vallhonrat has developed different projects in high mountain environments. Through "La sombra incisa", the artist establishes a prolonged, intimate and silent dialogue with the Maladeta glacier, (Pyrenees of Huesca), the only historical stronghold in southern Europe that survives the effects of climate change in conditions of extreme vulnerability. During part of August, the glacier loses the snow cover that protects it, revealing the complex silhouette of this ice entity that the artist tries to record by melting a recording device and provisional habitat in a high mountain tent.

The prolonged action of staying on the edge of the glacier - a childish, poetic and absurd gesture - allows him to simultaneously carry out recording, itinerary, permanence and accompaniment of this unique entity that inevitably disappears.

From an awareness of otherness, the perception of this alien and threatening niche is gradually transformed into awareness of a highly vulnerable place, in which knowledge, affection and immediate experience allow him to dialogue with the glacier in conditions of uncertainty.

"La sombra incisa [The incised shadow]" seeks to give visibility to this process of accompaniment and knowledge around that entity. Working along the edge of the glacier, a shadow line, is a metaphor for the richness of the spaces of silence, shadow and emptiness that interest him.

Javier Vallhonrat's work contains a strong metalinguistic component, always questioning the photographic language itself. The author places the viewer before the perplexity and astonishment of what he is observing, leading his gaze to the uncertainty between the real and the imaginary. With this project, he won the 2019 Enaire Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award.

## 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.