

Rita Ponce de León

With your own hands

19/12/2014 - 15/03/2015

Opening: Thursday 18 December, at 19.30

Lesson 0

Exhibition programme at Espai 13 of the Fundació Joan Miró

Curators: Azotea (Ane Agirre and Juan Canela)

Fundació Joan Miró presents *With your own hands*, a project by Rita Ponce de León at Espai 13.

Rita Ponce de León will turn Espai 13 into an area of creative dialogue with the visitor, who is invited to move beyond the traditional role of spectator and play an active part in the project.

The exhibition by the Peruvian artist can be viewed from 19 December 2014 to 15 March 2015 and is one of the projects in the exhibition programme Lesson 0, curated by Azotea (Ane Agirre and Juan Canela). The 2014-2015 season at Espai 13 fosters reflection on the current state of art education and explores new ways of transmitting knowledge.



Rita Ponce de León, preparatory drawings for the project *With your own hands*, 2014

Rita Ponce de León (Lima, 1982) conceives her project as an *exhibition mould*, which can be emptied and filled with as many interpretations as people who come face to face with it. The result is an aesthetic experience that encourages the viewer to investigate and learn new ways of relating to art.

In *With your own hands*, visitors do not follow a single predefined path, but they are invited to move around Espai 13 and handle the objects they find there with total freedom. An expanse of translucent white fabric subtly divides the exhibition space, almost like a veil; far from concealing anything, it arouses curiosity about what is on the other side. This impression of ethereal space and the artist's conviction that her creative practice can generate communication between people are the two lynchpins of this project.

It was after some conversations with a friend that Ponce de León was inspired to produce all the three-dimensional elements in the room. They have been made using different materials, starting from the enigmatic, almost fantastical designs of the artist. Components of a unique and highly personal universe, these objects reflect the desire to establish several levels of connection between each other, the artist and the viewer.

The evocative nature of these objects urges visitors to imbue them with meaning and encourages them to design their arrangement in the exhibition space, putting into practice the idea of exhibition as a container that is continuously emptied and then filled with connotations. Thus, the aesthetic experience lies in the possibility of moving, organising and mixing objects, as well as transferring them to the other side of the membrane that divides the room. As a result of this exercise involving action, *With your own hands* can be associated with one's own subjectivity, the meaning of the work is recoded, and new emotions emerge in a space that is conducive to self-learning and exploration.

Rita Ponce de León (Lima, Peru, 1982) lives and works in Mexico City. She draws with the intention of establishing a space for communication between the people close to her, such as family and friends, based on reflections on their social environment. She has exhibited at Kunsthalle Basel (Basel), the Cuenca Biennale (Cuenca, Ecuador), Sala de Arte Público Siqueiros (Mexico City), Galería 80M2 (Lima), Museo de Arte Moderno (Mexico City), New Museum (New York) and Centro Cultural Border (Mexico City). In 2013, her work was published in *Vitamin D2* (Phaidon Press).

<http://vigiliaycabeceo.blogspot.com.es>

Lesson 0

Lesson 0 is the 2014-15 exhibition programme at Espai 13 of the Fundació Joan Miró. Curated by Azotea (Ane Agirre and Juan Canela), it is a wide-ranging project that examines the current state of art education. The programme features four exhibition projects by **Priscila Fernandes**, **Rita Ponce de León**, **Anna Craycroft / Marc Vives** in collaboration with **Rivet** and **Eva Kotatkova**. Each of these projects explores, imagines and rehearses a variety of ways of learning within and through the exhibition space. The four projects are further activated by ***Friction pedagogies***, a pedagogical mediation programme conducted by Aida Sánchez de Serdio, Cristian Añó (Sinapsis) and Rachel Fendler.

With relation to the exhibition by Rita Ponce de León, ***Friction pedagogies*** has developed a programme of participatory workshops entitled *Objects of conversation*, which will explore the relationships between participants and objects found at the Fundació Joan Miró. The workshops will take the form of a treasure hunt involving the collective creation of texts about objects which have been selected by specific groups of young people and adults. With these cross-dialogues as a starting point, participants will develop an alternative perspective on the Fundació Joan Miró and its function as a cultural institution. *Objects of conversation* will conclude with a public presentation of the process, including a debate with other similar experiences.

Furthermore, ***Friction pedagogies*** will continue its collaborative work with primary and secondary school teachers which was begun with reference to the exhibition by Priscila Fernandes. Educators, artists and theorists will discuss initiatives of pedagogical transformation and the role of art education and creativity. Following on from these discussions, the teachers taking part will generate educational proposals to be developed in their schools in relation to the exhibitions in the exhibition programme *Lesson 0*.

You can follow the daily progress of the project on Twitter and Facebook with the hashtag **#Lesson0**

Images available at:

<http://bit.ly/1tkOnDc>

Downloadable video: statements by the curators, Ane Agirre and Juan Canela

<http://vimeo.com/fundaciojoanmiro>

Downloadable video: Rita Ponce de León, *With your own hands*

<http://vimeo.com/fundaciojoanmiro>

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