

WE WILL KEEP EACH OTHER COMPANY WHEN IT GROWS DARK

 Espai 13

45 anys

Exhibition series curated by Irina Mutt

ALBA MAYOL

INARI SANDELL

DANIELLE BRATHWAITE-SHIRLEY

HELENA VINENT

02/02/2024 – 19/01/2025

#EnsAcompanyaremEspai13

**Fundació Joan Miró**  Barcelona

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*Ens acompanyarem quan es faci fosc (We Will Keep Each Other Company when It Grows Dark)*

is the title of the Espai 13 exhibition programme for 2024, curated by Irina Mutt. Mutt's curatorial project stems from a desire to situate interdependence, to explain it and share it by means of four solo exhibitions in which each artist will look at their way of being in the world, of managing and negotiating spaces.

According to Mutt, interdependence speaks to us of our relationship with the world, of how we inhabit it, about our limits and vulnerabilities. To think in terms of interdependence requires us to challenge the fiction of autonomy and to recognise how interlinked our bodies and lives are with other bodies and lives. We are all part of everything, and we exist in relation to other beings, structures, and phenomena. Nothing presents itself, functions or operates in isolation.

Accordingly, the opportunities for agency, presence and access do not consist so much of individual triumphs or failures as of a collective and shared responsibility. Not every space feels as inviting or can be occupied in the same way by everyone. Not all voices fill up the same amount of space, nor do all stories endure the same across time. This programme offers a few notes, indications, and actions about different ways of occupying and being in space, of lasting in time.

The title of the programme alludes to a "we", to gestures, rather than to a discourse: how we

place ourselves next to someone else, walk alongside them, even if only for a short stretch of the way, for a short amount of time. It provides an opportunity to assume our responsibility despite knowing we will not always be effective. This will be our gesture: to place ourselves close by.

In discourses against discrimination, reference is usually made to the idea of safe and accessible spaces, but oftentimes a safe space does not mean a space free of conflict, nor does complying with the rules guarantee accessibility. Assuming responsibility for and being aware of our privileges can on occasion be wounding. At times it means surrendering, and to surrender is to lose power. But there are more important things than power, aren't there?

Over the course of this programme, a narrative will gradually generate itself in an elastic, non-essentialist, non-linear manner. The embodied and the material, as planes of truth, will have the capacity to deploy the political and activate it. In this narrative, fragility and power will not be binary opposites but relational phenomena that are exchanged and which overlap.

Artist Alba Mayol (Barcelona, 1979), drawing inspiration from Octavia E. Butler's short story

'Bloodchild', will present a space-cum-body in which all the elements are interconnected. Various formats such as sculpture, installation, and drawing will generate an atmosphere or spectre without defined limits or forms. Mayol aims to create an entity that pulsates and breathes; a presence that can be felt, smelt, and touched.

**ALBA MAYOL**  
**02/02 - 14/04/2024**

**INARI SANDELL**  
**26/04 - 07/07/2024**

Using language as an elastic material and as a condition and limit for portraying things and phenomena, the artist will be drawing from her research on desire and her conviction that it is impossible to define desire by applying strict logic.

Inari Sandell (Lahti, Finland, 1991) will be doing research on psychiatric disciplinary systems that have had an impact on narratives related to neurodiversity. This starting point will enable them to speculate on various sensory elements that can invite or exclude certain identities from the spaces we move through on a daily basis. These narrative and formal elements will also intersect with the image of a butterfly as a symbol of resistance to normative thinking and standards since butterflies avoid predators by flying in an unpredictable and chaotic manner.

Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley (London, 1995), an artist who lives and works in Berlin and London, will put together an exhibition in which installation art and interactive video games will generate stories centred on the lives of Black Trans people. In Brathwaite-Shirley's work, visitors will become characters in those games. Their decisions, or the position they occupy in a scale

of privilege, will affect the story that unfolds and will determine which parts of the work they are able to access. In this exhibition, individual responsibility can affect possibilities of survival or create memory and community.

**DANIELLE BRATHWAITE-SHIRLEY**  
**19/07 - 20/10/2024**

Lastly, Helena Vinent (Barcelona, 1988) will conceive a space in which fiction and reality cease to be excluding binarisms. Vinent will be presenting a crip band or gang that will activate and reclaim the space by bursting into the exhibition room or even spilling out beyond it. At the same time, she will put into circulation ideas and concepts related to accessibility, pleasure, and desire. Thanks to the force of the group, rather than asking for permission or adapting to the system, this very system will be assaulted, brought to a halt. These situated actions of desiring and desirable bodies will assert themselves over dominant ableist expectations. Espai 13 will become the possible setting in which non-normative bodies will cease to be docile and deprived of agency and will instead become a danger, a threat that will rock normality.

The exhibition program will conclude with a performance by Teo Ala-Ruona (Kuopio, Finland, 1990) in which Trans corporeality is presented as a phantasmagorical and transcendental experience.

**HELENA VINENT**  
**31/10/2024 - 19/01/2025**

For more information on the exhibitions scan here:



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