

Bárbara Sánchez Barroso

The Odyssey

March 23 – June 17, 2018

Inauguration: Thursday, March 22, 2018, at 7 p.m.

The Possibility of an Island

Exhibition Program at Espai 13 at Fundació Joan Miró

September 22, 2017 – September 11, 2018

Curator: Alexandra Laudo [Heroínas de la Cultura]

In collaboration with Fundació Banc Sabadell

Press Release

Bárbara Sánchez Barroso embarks on a journey of discovery through a feminine rereading of the Odysseus myth that strips it of all things epic

***The Odyssey* is a video installation that explores journeys as a metaphor for personal quests, while at the same time revisiting the classic epic poem from an antiheroic perspective.**

Sánchez Barroso's journey takes the form of a first-person audiovisual story, in which the artist explores the intersections between fiction and biographical narrative, between literature and life.

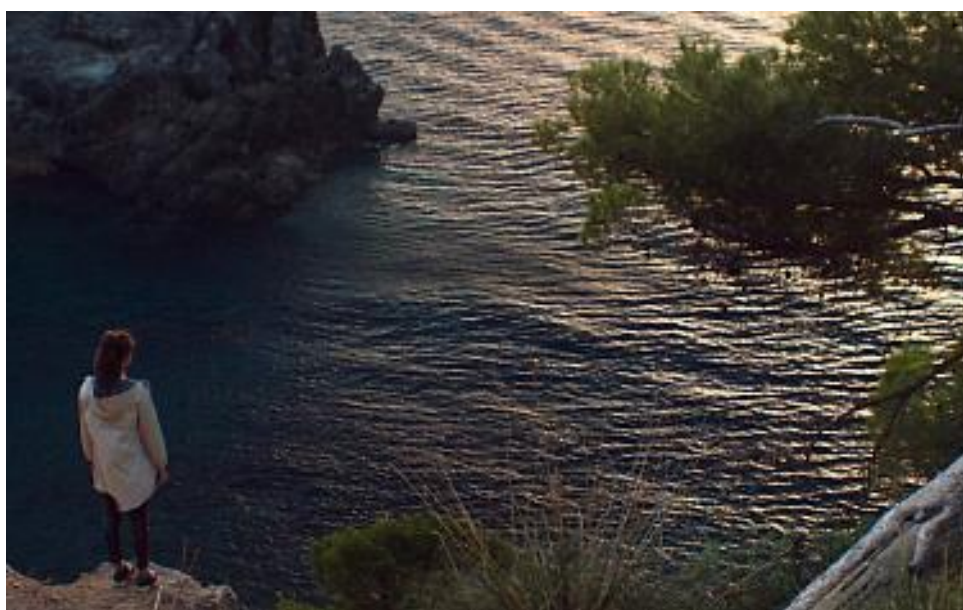
***The Odyssey* is the fourth show in *The Possibility of an Island*, the exhibition program for the 2017-2018 season at Fundació Joan Miró's Espai 13, organized in collaboration with Fundació Banc Sabadell. Curated by Alexandra Laudo, the project explores some of the symbolic and sociocultural meanings that have historically been associated with a paradigmatic space in the collective imaginary: the island.**

Barcelona, 22 March 2018. Bárbara Sánchez Barroso (Lleida, 1987) takes an interdisciplinary approach to her artwork, drawing on performance, video, and installation to explore subjects such as feminisms, personal relationships, and anything that lies on the periphery. Her projects often address the political dimension of the personal, celebrating the nature of all that is fragile and vulnerable. The power of narrative, whatever form it might take, is one of the driving forces behind her artistic practice, in which writing, film, and poetry are in constant fluid dialogue.

For *The Possibility of an Island*, Sánchez Barroso presents *The Odyssey*, a video installation about how we often set out for a destination in what is actually a return to our roots. The work tells the story of a voyage a woman makes by sea in search of an island cave related to her origins. More of a mental space than a geographic place, this destination functions as a metaphor for various concepts: the space of fiction, the unconscious, the mythical notion of origin, or even intrauterine life. During the journey, a voice recounts, in first person, a childhood memory intertwined with various reflections on the intersections between fiction and biography, the role of foundational stories in the collective imagination, or the human impulse to transform experience into narrative.

From the outset, Sánchez Barroso's piece refers to the Odysseus myth, beginning with the title, which announces its function as a literary archetype and draws an analogy between the recreation of history through myths and the reconstruction of identity through memories. The artist rewords phrases from works of literature by authors as diverse as Joseph Campbell, Joan Didion, Jean Paul Sartre and Emily Wilson, among others, weaving them into her own discourse without explicitly citing the sources, while constructing a story about fiction in which the boundaries between literature and life are blurred.

The work grew out of the artist's interest in basic plots, which, in myriad versions, lie at the core of all works of literature and film. The artist chose one of these classic plots for her film, that of the character who undertakes a voyage, only it is she herself, a woman, who takes it. Sánchez Barroso's *The Odyssey* is, above all, an internal, psychological, and antiheroic voyage, one that is neither resolved nor gives rise to conflict, struggle, or domination. The remains of a ship that lie in the exhibition space, accompanying the film, reinforce this perspective. They are an object that refers to the experience lived, but that, rather than commemorating the feat, evoke a shipwreck.



Still from *The Odyssey*, by Bárbara Sánchez Barroso. Courtesy of the artist

Bárbara Sánchez Barroso (Lleida, 1987) holds degrees in Fine Arts (2012) and Audiovisual Communication (2011) and a master's degree in Theory of Literature and Comparative Literature from the University of Barcelona. She has taught classes on communication and education at the University of Barcelona (UB), the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), and Charles University in Prague, among others. She is a member of the Nenazas collective, with whom she publishes fanzines and stages performances. Among other awards, Sánchez Barroso has been selected to be part of the video library of the Reina Sofia Museum.

She has recently presented her work at group exhibitions in Madrid, Tunisia and Quito. In the last year, she has also done residencies at Addaya Centre d'Art Contemporani (Mallorca) and in Tunisia, through the JISER association. She has been the recipient of grants from Sala d'Art Jove and Fundació Guasch Coranty and had a solo exhibition at La Capella as part of BCN Producció 2016. Sánchez Barroso is currently pursuing graduate studies at Hoger Instituut voor Schone Kunsten (HISK) in Ghent, Belgium, with the support of a grant from the Han Nefkens Foundation. <http://barbarawong.info/>

The Possibility of an Island is the exhibition program for the 2017-2018 season at Fundació Joan Miró's Espai 13, organized in collaboration with Fundació Banc Sabadell. Curated by Alexandra Laudo, the project explores some of the symbolic and sociocultural meanings that have historically been associated with a paradigmatic space in the collective imaginary: the island. An island is a symbol of independence and self-sufficiency, but it can also be a place of segregation and confinement. It can evoke images of paradise, but also of self-contained tourist resorts. Historically, islands have been objects of colonial power, but also places for social and political utopias. Above all, an island is a metaphor for a state of solitude, retreat and introspection.

Gerard Ortín, Irene de Andrés, Lucía C. Pino, Bárbara Sánchez and Gideonsson / Londré probe some of these meanings using a variety of approaches and perspectives with the aim of raising questions and reflections about them that are pertinent to the contemporary context. *The Possibility of an Island* is the first program in a series of projects that Fundació Joan Miró's Espai 13 will dedicate to current curatorial practices, emphasizing not only the usual question of *what* is being curated, but also *how*.

Upcoming exhibitions in *The Possibility of an Island*

Gideonsson/Londré. *I'm Vertical*

June 29, 2018 – September 11, 2018

This Swedish artistic duo's work often has a performative dimension and is based on the exploration of issues related to temporality, bodies, and natural space, as well as the relationships between them. For Espai 13, they are preparing a project that explores the idea of verticality and the effects, both physical and psychological, that human beings experience at very high altitudes and how this set of sensations enhances physical and mental states of introspection. They also



relate these effects to the ascetic tradition and to certain forms of spirituality that have historically developed in alpine regions and called for a life of isolation and seclusion.

Images and material for the press are available at [www.fmirobcn.org/press_and http://bit.ly/2tqjyFs](http://www.fmirobcn.org/press_and_http://bit.ly/2tqjyFs). Follow Espai 13's activities on social media with the hashtag #illaEspai13.

In collaboration with

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Fundació Joan Miró * *J...* Barcelona

Fundació Joan Miró
Parc de Montjuïc
08038 Barcelona
T +34 934 439 070
press@fmirobcn.org

www.fmirobcn.org