

**Beatriz Olabarrieta**  
**Faces**

20/12/2019 – 22/03/2020

**Turn It All Turns**

**Espai 13 Exhibition Series at the Fundació Joan Miró**

19 September 2019 - 6 September 2020

Curator: Marc Navarro

With support from Fundació Banc Sabadell

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**Press Release**

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**Beatriz Olabarrieta inquires into the multifaceted nature of identity**

**Faces plants the suspicion in the Fundació Joan Miró's Espai 13 that any act of communication involves translation, and that in this process, faces, much like words, are subject to numerous mutations and interpretations.**

**The second piece in the *Turn It All Turns* series consists of an architectural installation with no interior or exterior, without clearly defined faces, a physical experience of confusion that drives visitors towards other instances of defamiliarization.**

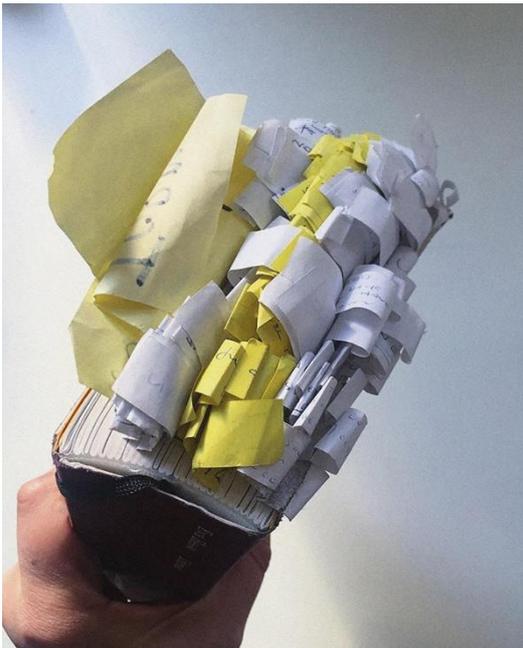
***Turn It All Turns* is the Espai 13 exhibition series held at the Fundació Joan Miró during the 2019-2020 season in collaboration with Fundació Banc Sabadell. Curated by Marc Navarro Fornós (Deltebre, 1984), the project examines and develops the notion of defamiliarization, proposing a reinterpretation of our immediate surroundings and the way we relate to them.**

**Barcelona, 19 December 2019.** In her work, Beatriz Olabarrieta (Bilbao, 1979) explores the limits of language and places the focus on the dysfunctional behaviour of communication: messages that don't find a recipient, voices that don't correspond to a narrative, or written words that belong to no language at all. For Marc Navarro, the curator of the *Turn It All Turns* series, in Olabarrieta's work "the urge to say clashes with the impossibility of information being efficiently conveyed, so that language gives way to the unpredictable."

Faced with this instability of language and in a scenario in which communication becomes an act of permanent negotiation, Beatriz Olabarrieta seeks refuge in the notion of translation. This concept has a central role in her most recent projects, which

address the way in which we constantly reformulate our narrative to allow for communication, reconciliation and understanding.

For this year's Espai 13, Olabarrieta presents *Faces*, a project that examines the multifaceted nature of realities, identities and languages. According to Navarro, "the face has become the access interface to an identity we're constantly reconfiguring, a shell we edit at our convenience to show ourselves in public or to dilute ourselves." In Olabarrieta's project for *Turn It All Turns*, speech and writing are two defining elements of our identity, just as the multiple versions of our external appearance determine our acts of communication.



Beatriz Olabarrieta  
*Noise*  
Courtesy of the artist

Following this idea, Olabarrieta uses the exhibition space to display a variety of graphic, acoustic and text documents related to the faces, planes and versions that play with the solidity of objects, identities and biographies. These false leads are distributed throughout a labyrinthine architectural installation that divides the Espai 13 space like "a trap or a riddle", to quote the artist. It is a construction without an interior or an exterior, with no clearly defined sides, which cuts off the expected circulation within the space, as well as the view of the bodies walking through it – a physical experience of uncertainty that leads visitors towards other instances of defamiliarization: regarding their own identity and consistency. According to the project's curator Marc Navarro, it is "a deterritorialization that forces us to imagine ways of relating to our surroundings and making ourselves present above and beyond the biographical narrative and the dictates of the intelligible."

**Beatriz Olabarrieta** (Bilbao, 1979) graduated in philosophy from the University of Deusto (Bilbao), in sculpture from the Wimbledon School of Art (London), and received a Master's Degree in sculpture from the Royal College of Art (London). She lives and works in London.

Some of her recent exhibitions are *Ask the Dust*, MCASB, Santa Barbara (2018-19), *Stay Twice*, Bielefelder Kunstverein (Bielefeld, 2019) *Meeting With a Double Agent*, Syntax (Lisbon, 2017), *The Only Way Out Is In*, The Sunday Painter (London, 2017) and *Book! Don't Tell Me What To Do*, Parallel Oaxaca (Mexico City, 2017). She has shown her work in solo and group exhibitions at Serpentine Galleries (2016), Mot International (2015) and Lisson Gallery (2015), among other venues. Olabarrieta has been an artist in residence at the Museo Experimental El Eco (Mexico City, 2014) and the Cité Internationale des Arts (Paris, 2006).

**Turn It All Turns** is the Espai 13 exhibitions series featured at the Fundació Joan Miró for the 2019-20 season, with support from Fundació Banc Sabadell. Curated by Marc Navarro Fornós (Deltebre, 1984), the project examines and develops the notion of defamiliarization while offering a reinterpretation of our immediate surroundings and the way we relate to them. The series experiments with languages and seeks to elicit a critical approach that will enable us to question the codes that condition our perception.

Not only our responses to certain stimuli, but also the circulation of ideas and the physical and cultural understanding of reality often lead us to surrender to automatisms that are difficult to detect. *Turn It All Turns* focuses on forms of communication that resist these automatisms, play with meaning and move events out of their usual contexts. The series invites us to put our senses on hold and venture into an area of uncertainty where the artists move beyond conventions to establish a dialogue with the space that hosts their pieces.

*Turn It All Turns* includes four exhibition projects by Laia Estruch, Beatriz Olabarrieta, Julia Spínola and Lorea Alfaro-Jon Otamendi, and an education project led by Victor Ruiz Colomer.

## Upcoming Exhibitions in the *Turn It All Turns* Series

### Julia Spínola. *Vís*

02/04 - 21/06/2020

Spínola's sculptures invite viewers to review some of the certainties governing the realm of experience, while proposing a specific shaping of the spaces in which they are placed. In her most recent explorations, Spínola confronts us with the traps that our perceptions set for us. When faced with replicating gestures or duplicated spaces, our senses can cancel out the solidity of bodies and present us with atomized or defamiliarized objects, or as the result of a frozen movement.



### Lorea Alfaro and Jon Otamendi. 2020

02/07 - 06/09/2020

Lorea Alfaro's projects explore the realm of hopes and examine aspects of the communication process that are associated with persuasion and seduction. Alfaro imitates the visual production methods of fashion to place the focus on language, distribution methods and image consumption. Jon Otamendi, on the other hand, generates specific situations based on minimal gestures which transform architecture and its purpose. In their collaborative ventures, the visual element and the tectonic element merge to create an immersive effect.



Photographs and press materials are available at [www.fmirobcn.org/press](http://www.fmirobcn.org/press) and <http://bit.ly/2IX3ec5>.

Follow the Espai 13 activities on social media with the hashtag [#GiraEspai13](https://twitter.com/GiraEspai13).

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