

Marcel Rubio Juliana
The Resurrection
29 April – 3 July 2022

Dive and Immersion

Espai 13 Exhibition Series at the Fundació Joan Miró

20 January 2022 to 15 January 2023

Series curated by Pere Llobera, in collaboration with Martina Millà, head of exhibitions at the Fundació Joan Miró

With the collaboration of the Banco Sabadell Foundation

Press Release

Marcel Rubio Juliana explores the concept of resurrection through alchemical process

In his proposal for the current exhibition series at Espai 13, the artist presents an elaborate visual framework through which to address the relationship with regenerative energy and recursive movement between matter and spirit.

In *The Resurrection*, Rubio Juliana applies a three-pronged perspective in evoking this series: one is symbolic, as a process of alchemical transmutation; the second is physical, with a detailed description of all bodily and spiritual processes implied; and the third is genealogical, with reference to the term's Christian substrate.

Marcel Rubio Juliana illustrates this extreme metamorphosis with an extended series of large-format oil paintings and figurative iconography, arising from the direct observation of both human and animal models.

***Dive and Immersion* is the series of Espai 13 exhibitions presented by the Fundació Joan Miró for the 2022 season in partnership with the Banco Sabadell Foundation. Curated by Pere Llobera (Barcelona, 1970), the project focuses on the current state of the pictorial art through four exhibitions of artists on the local scene who represent the wide variety of languages used in our context.**

Barcelona, 29 April 2022. For *Dive and Immersion*, Marcel Rubio Juliana (Badalona, 1991) presents an extensive pictorial investigation into the concept of resurrection. Life, death and the circularity that binds them are the main features of the series at Espai 13 this year, as conceived by artist and curator Pere Llobera. If in the opening proposal Victor Jaenada confronted the visitor with the troubled nature of being alive, here Rubio Juliana opens up the possibility of being reborn.

So as to suggest this transit, which by its very nature is unrepresentable, the artist recurs to an area of interest already present in his work: alchemy, that ancient science of matter and spirit; rather than being disassociated, with alchemy matter and spirit feed and grow off each other in a relation of mutuality. With *The Resurrection*, the exploration of the term's Christian genealogy and the near-clinical description of the corporeal and spiritual phases of this transmutational process coincide at the Espai 13. As Rubio Juliana has written:

«*Resurrection*, the fact of being born anew, as an action taking place in the spiritual realm, is a term that takes in the broad domain of sacred tradition and is used to refer to when a dead body comes back to life. The concept has been focused in different ways in every society, in function of its relationship with regenerative energy.

For primitive societies, this implied a belief in something extraordinary that took place on a supra-sensorial plane. For us, it implies a metaphor, which in most cases is understood as the shift from one state to another, from death to life; it is something rather difficult to believe in, as it involves an act of faith in a miracle, revealing in the process the Christian roots of the struggle between matter and spirit the term itself is based upon . . . Alchemy, together with the hermetic tradition, left us an acutely suggestive cosmogony that has been adjusted to represent this very mystery. »



In formalising this process, for the first time Marcel Rubio Juliana has employed large-format painting, presenting some fifteen sizeable oils on canvas, along with some smaller works. At the Espai 13, the works are

hung to give structure to the gallery space and lay out the visitor's path, constituting a kind of journey through every transformational state of the body after death, ultimately coming to the final state of the soul's sublimation, when the opposing path towards materialisation is taken. The exhibition also includes a small painting done

by the artist's mother when she was eleven years old, which is included in the description of the process. As the preferred technique of Rubio Juliana's previous work, drawing has been highly present in the creative process of this project as well, grounded as it is on an intense labour of life-drawing with human and animal models. As the artist has emphasised, the result follows the «classic criteria of representation as come down to the present—the work's existence, that it may have meaning, and that it be beautiful—with the express will to have the painting communicate human passions in a comprehensible manner».

Marcel Rubio Juliana (Badalona, Barcelona, 1991) expresses himself chiefly through drawing and figurative art, although his creative practice also incorporates narratives from the world of film and literature. He graduated from the Escola d'Art i Superior de Disseny Pau Gargallo in 2007, before going on to earn a fine art degree from the Universitat de Barcelona in 2013.

Since then, Rubio Juliana has presented his work at shows and venues such as *El retorn a Ripollet* (Espai Poblenou Joan Prats, 2020; Premi Art Nou 2020), *Surfeit* (Fundació Arranz-Bravo, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, 2018), *Swab* (Barcelona, represented by Passatge Studio gallery, 2016), *Els músculs de Zarathustra* (with writer Víctor Balcells Matas, Passatge Studio, Barcelona, 2016), *La Puntual de Mercantic* (Sant Cugat, 2016), *Tom Carr. Ecos de Carles Buïgas*, amb la col·laboració de TCTeamWork (Badalona, 2014), *Facultat de Belles Arts* (Barcelona, 2014), *Dibuixant la nit* (group exhibition at Anquin gallery, Reus, 2014).

Dive and Immersion is the series of exhibitions the Fundació Joan Miró is putting on at Espai 13 throughout 2022, with support from the Banco Sabadell Foundation. Curated by Pere Llobera (Barcelona, 1970), the project surveys the state of the art of painting over the course of four exhibitions by artists from the local scene employing a wide range of the many languages used in our context. The shows by Víctor Jaenada, Marcel Rubio Juliana, Marria Pratts and Martín Vitaliti showcase the tremendous possibilities afforded by the notion of expanded painting in conjunction with methodologies and research from the world of emerging art.

The series takes its name from Galician poet José Ángel Valente's free translation of the title of the poem "Il tuffatore", by Italian writer and Nobel Prize winner Eugenio Montale, rendered in Spanish as "Salto e inmersión". Montale was inspired by a fresco from a 5th-century BC tomb depicting a naked young man diving headfirst into a pool of water. Both painting and poem explore ideas of life, death and the circularity that binds them together. Jaenada, Rubio Juliana, Pratts and Vitaliti thread these same concepts through their own projects in a tragic and lucid vein. In their installations, artefacts and paintings, all four artists—dubbed "natural painters" by Pere Llobera—address the need to find their own voice in this cyclical succession. The title of the series also hints symbolically at these artists' deeply felt, radical commitment to their work.

Forthcoming exhibitions in the *Dive and Immersion* series

Marria Pratts, *1 possession Drift*

15 July – 16 October 2022

In *1 possessió Drift*, Marria Pratts takes us back to the new atmosphere of anger that existed in the late seventies and early eighties. From this uncompromising radicalism, Pratts is to install a pictorial and architectural artefact in the basement of the Fundació Joan Miró, using a dynamic approach to time and space that dissects the project itself into a large archive of objects, waste, routines and obsessions.



Martín Vitaliti, *Silly Symphony*

28 October – 15 January 2023

Silly Symphonies is approached as an immersive audiovisual installation about recurrence and repetition in the early cartoon industry. This project, which offers an atmospheric experience approaching strangeness and nightmare, takes the title of a series of Walt Disney shorts of the thirties in which the resource of looped animation is exploited. Vitaliti focuses on the tragic, alienating dimension of these repetitive loops, which are the result of extreme exploitation of the production line to maximise profits.



Press pictures and material at <https://www.fmirobcn.org/en/foundation/press/> and through the link bit.ly/ImmersióEspai13. Follow Espai 13 activities on social networks with the tag [#ImmersióEspai13](https://twitter.com/ImmersióEspai13)

With the collaboration of

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