

Nadala at Fundació Joan Miró

Alignments, by Patricia Dauder

27 November 2018 – 6 January 2019

Press release

The Fundació Joan Miró presents *Alignments*, an installation by Patricia Dauder for Nadala 2018

Drawing on her interest in astronomy and the importance of the starlit sky in many cultures, the artist evokes the Christmas Star as an astrological phenomenon.

Dauder's installation, which can be viewed in Room 3 of the Collection until 6 January 2019, also aligns itself with part of Miró's iconography, in which stars and constellations are key images.

Nadala at the Fundació Joan Miró is an initiative that links local artists with the end-of-year festivities. Since 2007, the Foundation has exhibited the creations of Perejaume, Ignasi Aballí, Tere Recarens, Antoni Llena, Fernando Prats, Jaume Pitarch, Eulàlia Valldosera, Fina Miralles, Rafel G. Bianchi and Regina Giménez, Luis Bisbe and Josep Mañà.

Barcelona, 27 November 2018. "The spectacle of the sky overwhelms me. I'm overwhelmed when I see, in an immense sky, the crescent of the moon, or the sun," declared Joan Miró (Barcelona, 1893 - Palma de Mallorca, 1983) in an interview in 1959. For many artists, including Miró, celestial signs have been a source of inspiration, an outlook that ties into the ancestral fascination with contemplating the stars and connects with the spiritual values of nature.

The cosmic order, the unfathomable mystery of the universe and the power of natural phenomena planted the seed of transcendence in human beings, who lifted their eyes to direct their gaze and their unanswered questions above and beyond. And despite the fact that, today, science and technology have provided tools for a rational explanation of many of these phenomena, the sight of the night sky continues to arouse the same amazement and reverence that it must have done two thousand years ago.

Observation of celestial bodies and depictions of cosmic maps and star atlases are frequent motifs in the work of the artist Patricia Dauder. For this year's Nadala, Dauder presents *Alignments*, an installation centred around the Christmas Star as an astrological and symbolic phenomenon.

The Gospel According to Saint Matthew relates how three wise men from the east, probably astronomers, saw a star appear in the west, which was to guide them on their journey to the place where the King of the Jews had been born. According to Christian tradition, the Star of Bethlehem or Christmas Star is a sign of the miracle of the coming of the Messiah. According to Patricia Dauder's research for this piece, "thousands of astronomy studies over the centuries have sought to provide a physical explanation for this Christmas symbol, which in all probability was a genuine astral phenomenon. Various hypotheses have been put forward; one of the most popular theories points to an unusual combination of astronomical events including the triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn."



Alignments is a composition created from various painted panels of fabric, in which the global image is produced by superimposing all the panels. Dauder speculates about what people must have observed in the sky at some point between the years 7 and 2 BC. Far from producing an illustration based on the possible hypotheses, she creates a totally free image that alludes to the optical effects of the conjunction of the light and the alignment of astral orbits. The result can be seen until 6 January 2019 in the space assigned to the Collection at the Fundació Joan Miró. The installation is positioned in front of one of the large windows that looks on to the Olive Tree Patio.

Patricia Dauder (Barcelona, 1973) is a visual artist who works with drawing, photography, sculpture and experimental cinema. Having graduated in Fine Arts from the University of Barcelona, Dauder completed her studies at Ateliers Arnhem and the Hogeschool voor Kunst en Vormgeving in S’Hertogensbosch (the Netherlands), as well as at the International Studio and Curatorial Program in New York.

Her work, usually focused on process, feeds off artistic research into the possibility of viewing and representation beyond the object-based environment. In this respect, Dauder gives a central role to light as a symbol of this metaphysical vision which must enable her to transcend the physical dimension. Her projects are pursued in lengthy cycles of research which orbit around the concepts of time and space. Her work is also driven by introspection into the psychological dimension itself and exploration of the subconscious.

Her recent exhibitions include *Surface. Introducing Patricia Dauder*, National Gallery, Prague (2018); *Terra Incognita*, Arquipelago Contemporary Arts Centre, the Azores (2017); *Absent forms*, ProjecteSD, Barcelona (2015); *The Second Image*, Serralves Museum, Porto (2012); and *Studio 03*, Van der Mieden Gallery, Antwerp (2011).
<http://patriciadauder.net/>

Nadala at the Fundació Joan Miró is an initiative that links local artists with the end-of-year festivities. Around this time of the year, the Foundation hosts an installation especially created by an artist, who offers his or her interpretation of a theme associated with the Christmas period. Since 2007, the Foundation has exhibited the creations of Perejaume, Ignasi Aballí, Tere Recarens, Antoni Llena, Fernando Prats, Jaume Pitarch, Eulàlia Valldosera, Fina Miralles, Rafel G. Bianchi and Regina Giménez, Luis Bisbe and Josep Mañà.

Images available at <http://bit.ly/Nadala18-Patricia-Dauder>