

ANDALUCÍA, 6 DE JUNIO DE 2024

Ignasi Aballí explores the visual language of silence at Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo

Exhibition 'In ictus oculi' presents a deep and detailed exploration of the artist's work, including pieces created specifically for the CAAC

Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo (CAAC), under the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport, is presenting an exhibition by artist Ignasi Aballí, titled 'In ictu oculi,' from June 6 to November 10. Curated by Geovana Ibarra, the exhibition includes a selection of works that feature pieces specifically designed for the spaces and context of CAAC and the city of Seville, new works, versions of previous works, and works created prior to the exhibition. In these pieces, Ignasi Aballí primarily addresses two closely related themes: silence and reflections on painting.

"In ictu oculi (In the Blink of an Eye) refers to the title of one of the two vanitas by Juan de Valdés Leal (1622-1690) [...] The title, on the one hand, refers to the speed with which time passes and the fleeting nature of our existence and, on the other, to the idea of blinking, that almost imperceptible and unconscious gesture by which we stop seeing for a few microseconds, a metaphor for the fleetingness of life," explained the artist. Silence in Aballí's work is not simply the absence of sound but an active presence that fosters deep contemplation and introspection. Through empty spaces, monochromatic colors, and ephemeral materials, the artist creates a dialogue with the monastic history and spiritual contemplation tradition of La Cartuja and Seville.

Reflection on painting, its essence, and materiality is the other central pillar of his work. Working with pigments, technique, and creative processes, Aballí challenges the viewer in this selection of works about the passage of time, the meaning of the practice of painting today, and how it can be approached at this moment.

The exhibition is organized into rooms that explore specific aspects of Ignasi Aballí's work. Themes include blinking, symbolizing the intermittence of visual perception and the fleetingness of time; the visible and invisible, challenging our notions of perception and reality; and the relationship between text and image, questioning how we understand and represent the world through different languages. The exhibition also addresses themes such as error and correction, reflecting on the creative process and the acceptance of imperfection.

'In ictu oculi' seeks to create an experience of introspection and contemplation. Through his works, Aballí challenges the audience to reflect on the nature of art and the perception of the world, generating a silent two-way conversation between the work



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and the audience. Among the most representative pieces of the exhibition are works employing various techniques and materials, from color fusion, pigment usage, and unpainted canvases to prints, photographs, and site-specific interventions that play with visual perception.

The history of La Cartuja, home to the CAAC, adds an additional layer of meaning, having historically been a place of silence and meditation. This context further enriches the visitor's experience, placing Aballí's work in continuous conversation with the past and present of art, as well as with contemplative and spiritual practices. The artist connects the exhibition space and the work, using both elements to amplify his message, offering a new perspective on his work around the concepts of silence and painting.

About Ignasi Aballí. Barcelona, 1958.

Aballí has held numerous solo exhibitions in Spain and abroad, including those at the MACBA (Barcelona, 2005), Museo Serralves (Porto, 2006), IKON Gallery (Birmingham, 2006), ZKM (Karlsruhe, 2006), Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo (2010), Museo Artium (Vitoria, 2012), Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (Madrid 2004, 2015), Fundación Miró (Barcelona, 2016), Museo de Arte de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Bogotá, 2017), and Meadows Museum (Dallas, Texas, 2022).

He has participated in the 52nd Venice Biennale (Italy, 2007), the 8th Sharjah Biennial (UAE, 2007), the 11th Sydney Biennale (Australia, 1998), the 4th Guangzhou Triennial (China, 2012), the 13th Cuenca Biennial (Ecuador, 2016), and in 2022 represented Spain at the 59th Venice Art Biennale with the project 'Corrección'. In 2009, he received the National Graphic Art Award, and in 2015, the 5th Joan Miró Prize.

