

English

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Galeria Estrany-de la Mota

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Francesc Ruiz. The Yaois

Opening: Wednesday, December 14th 2011, 7.30 p.m.

Exhibition: 14.12.2011 – 25.02.2012. Tuesday to Saturdays from 10.30 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Francesc Ruiz presents in our gallery a new project gathering some of his latest preoccupations; on one hand his incursions into the YAOI culture (a homoerotic version of Japanese manga), on the other, works around the edition of magazines and fanzines he has been performing for years with his kiosks (*Philadelphia Newsstand*, 2010) and specialty stores (*Gasworks Yaoi*, 2010).

The Yaois, is an installation of thirty panels of images, sometimes slightly modified, taken from internet forming numbered grid tables lined up in 36 sheets of paper. These tables have their origin in the Tokyo COMIKET catalogue, which is the largest event held around the Yaoi culture where, sorted and classified, the different circles or small publishers show their amateur publications during a few days. A unique space in which copyright law disappears and it is permitted to copy, version and plagiarize the most popular characters from the comic and anime industry.

In the exhibition boards are used to delve into the possible areas where the yaoi or any other parodic homoerotic representational model can be developed, pointing also to other similar practices in history, from Tijuana Bibles to the apocryphal versions of Tintin and Disney made by fans that for long have been moving through the "black market". *The Yaois* explore in their multiplicity the different sensibilities, misunderstandings and blurry places where it is located, ranging from the critique of patriarchy and the subversion of its traditional spaces, to the Boy's Love romanticism, or even the performative space some fans explore through cosplay (costumes of their favorite characters), not to mention homophobic constructions and their parodic practice that occurs in some contexts.

In this new work Francesc Ruiz applies the "yaoi logic" to the places of art, revisiting Pop Art and some of its main artists, but also popular culture, sacred art, sports, politics, and finance. Creating a new way to observe and read the world, the artist proposes different perspectives to approach and address the complexity in which sexuality, gender and power are intertwined.

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*For further information and/or images contact to galeria@estranydelamota.com.