

Galeria Estrany-de la Mota

<http://www.estranydelamota.com/>

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Francesc Ruiz. Los alrededores

Opening: Thursday, October 1st 2015, 19.00 p.m.

Exhibition: 01.10.2015 – 28.11.2015. Tuesday to Friday from 10.30 p.m. to 7.00 a.m. and Saturdays from 10.00 p.m. to 2.30 a.m.

Galeria Estrany-de la Mota gallery is pleased to present a new exhibition of Francesc Ruiz during the *Barcelona Gallery Weekend*.

Los alrededores [the surroundings] reinterprets one of the constants in the work of the artist, one that through various strategies seeks to show the links between urbanism and visual narrative, comic and city. This time Francesc reproduces within the gallery walls the outer perimeter of the block in which the gallery is located, as if the act of walking around the block were enough to wonder about a territory and its people.

The installation has its precedents in other strategies that linked to the ultra-local context Francesc has been developing in his works, some currently exhibited at MACBA, as the routes around Cairo of *The Green Detour* or *BCN Eye Trip* series, where the urban grid becomes a comic strip.

Los alrededores reinterprets through digital drawings, halfway between the manga backgrounds and real state renders, the windows and doors that are on the perimeter of the gallery, as if they were frames and vignettes of a narrative in motion for an occasional urban *flâneur*.

Walking around *Los alrededores* opens to all kinds of psychological, social and political interpretations. And it is this space, the most immediate, with its individuals, groups and institutions, that can be read as a question about the possibility of creating new frontiers and on the sustainability of the resulting landscape.

The city block where the Galeria Estrany-de la Mota falls, runs through the Passatge Mercader and Mallorca streets, Balmes and Provence. Art galleries coexist with the offices of Agència Catalana de l'Aigua or Gas Natural Fenosa, an institution devoted to mental health is, door-to-door, with a religious community, a Mariscal sgraffito and an image of the virgin. In the street Mallorca, a fur shop, an Italian hairdresser and a pizzeria named Il Masone share sidewalk with the first headquarters of La Central bookshop, near the place where remain forever closed the headquarters of the Kowasa, bookshop specializing in photography, or Masajes a 1000. On the corner with Balmes the office furniture design store is the waiting room of the advanced cosmetics bar SKINC, the work in the company and the promise of eternal beauty gives way to the temple of Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro, where on Sundays at ten am, the Ukrainian community in Barcelona meets to go to church. An ancient academy, a hairdressing, Tropic bar, all of them closed, suggest the low marketability of the area. But when turning, the Adelaida clothing accessories store and the terraces of the cafeteria Per Sants revive the ride. The Lamas kiosk, with Catalanian independence merchandising in his shop window, and cross-stitch specialized shop Dona seem to point some idea of neighborhood, just before meeting again with the offices of Agència Catalana de l'Aigua.

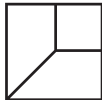
During the tour we could even look at some details that had previously been overlooked, and we have been able as well to see ourselves reflected in the glass windows.

Francesc Ruiz (Barcelona, 1971) starts from the comic book as aesthetic, narrative and intellectual substrate, as well as historical and operational material. Applying it as a continent or description of reality (through the creation, alteration, restitution or assembly, among other ways) generates possible stories that reveal the apparatuses through which individual and social as well as sexual identities are constructed, or even the identity of the city. His work has been exhibited individually at the Instituto Valenciano de Arte Moderno – IVAM (Valencia), Gasworks (London) Centre d'Art la Panera (Lleida), Contemporary Image Collective (Cairo), Monasterio de Santo Domingo de Silos – MNCARS (Burgos), Centre d'Art Santa Mònica (Barcelona) or la Fundació Joan Miró (Barcelona). He has participated in recent years in group exhibitions such as *Arqueològica* (Matadero, Madrid), *Ciudad Total* (Instituto Valenciano de Arte Moderno – IVAM, Valencia), *Aproximaciones I* (Fundación Helga de Alvear, Cáceres), *The Last Newspaper* (New Museum, Nueva York) or *To Illustrate and Multiply: an Open Book* (The Museum of Contemporary Art of Los Angeles – MOCA (Los Ángeles)). It is present in both domestic and international institutional collections, as Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía – MNCARS, (Madrid), Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona – MACBA (Barcelona), Sociétés des auteurs, compositeurs et éditeurs de musique – SACEM (Paris), Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León – MUSAC (León), Centro Gallego de Arte Contemporáneo – CGAC (Santiago de Compostela) o el FRAC Corse (Corsica).

Francesc Ruiz is one of the artists representing Spain in the current Venice Biennale within the project *Los Sujetos* curated by Martí Manen.

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