

The exhibition examines the artistic and everyday treatment of what is commonly conceived as landscape and delves deeper into it.

CURATED BY:
Marenka
Krasomil

ARTISTS:
Sara Agudo Millán,
Natalia Domínguez, Sergio Monje,
Barbara Sánchez Barroso



**NATURE
ANCIENT,
BUT SURPRISES
US ALL
17-26 NOV 2023**



Landscape as a surrounding space can never be equated with nature; beyond flora and fauna, it always also contains the built and the designed. Its own narratives are formed. Historical processes, climatic, social, political, geographical, and philosophical references are deeply inscribed in it. Landscape is an ever-changing habitat in which the past and the future meet.

Interventions, interactions, and the human gaze are always included in the term. Nevertheless, a dichotomy between nature and culture has long persisted, involving hierarchies and creating (neo-)colonial relations of exploitation. Today the effects of these can be felt in climate change, resource scarcity, and the extinction of species, among other things. Demands for a reorganization of the relationship between humans and

nature, while taking into account the global distribution of power and access to resources, are becoming increasingly visible, not least thanks to the struggles of eco-feminist movements.

The title *NATURE IS ANCIENT, BUT SURPRISES US ALL* is taken from Björk's song *Nature Is Ancient / My Snare*. The exhibition brings together works that reflect, reject, or create new tensions around the binary separation of nature and culture. Generating landscape images with AI technologies, these works place themselves in the field of vision, mirror perceptions in words, question the difference between the natural and the unnatural, and reveal a range of concepts of nature.

The exhibition is the result of the SAC International Curatorial Residency Program, the residency program of Sant Andreu Contemporani, co-organized with Institut Ramon Llull, in collaboration with Fabra i Coats - Fàbrica de Creació de Barcelona, aimed at international curators.

NATURE IS ANCIENT, BUT SURPRISES US ALL

11 – 26 NOV. 2023

Live-Performance
by Baal & Mortimer
10. NOV. 2023
OPENING



Since 2014 Baal & Mortimer is the solo project of A. Grübler and is primarily interested in the alchemical potential of artistic practices as well as liminal spaces of autonomy. The debut album *Deixis* was released on Bureau B in 2020 and the EP *The Torso Tapes* on ITALIC in 2021. In the same year she released the 7" *And the Sky gave up the Dead* for the Kunsthalle Düsseldorf exhibition *Journey through a Body*. In 2022 the album *CON-STRUCT* followed via Bureau B, where she worked with the sound archives of electronic music pioneer Conrad Schnitzler. In 2018 she was the mentee of Laurel Halo in the Berlin Amplify Program. In 2023 Baal & Mortimer was part of the Forecast Forum under Greg Fox's *Rhythmic Excavation*.

Sara Agudo Millán
and I can feel
things changing,
2023

VINYL TEXTS ON GLASS,
DIMENSIONS VARIABLE



The project *and I can feel things changing* looks at the language used to describe current changes. Since 2020, Sara Agudo Millán has been working with different sources, such as the press, networks, advertising, books, graffiti, demonstration banners, and phrases she hears on the street or on the radio. With this material, the artist maps dominant and latent narratives to show the genealogy of what is said, its repetition and effects.

Natalia Domínguez
ST (Parachute) II,
2023

REFLECTIVE FABRIC,
SYNTHETIC FABRIC,
ROPE, CARABINERS,
RINGS AND
METHACRYLATE
TRIMMINGS, 450 X 175 CM



ST (Parachute) II is part of a sculptural analysis of how tools condition and shape our relationships with landscape. Based on these considerations, the series *ST (Parachute)* examines properties, forms and meanings of various materials that relate to techniques of protection and survival in the airspace. In the exhibition space, however, they proved to be useless, incapable and lose their original purpose.

Sergio Monje
Todas las costas
posibles,
2022

AI-GENERATED IMAGES,
POSTCARD PRINTING
(10 X 15 CM), POSTCARD
STAND, DIMENSIONS
VARIABLE



Using hundreds of postcards of the Balearic coast from the Casa Planas archive (which documents the period of tourist development on the islands), Sergio Monje trained a Generative Adversarial Network, an artificial intelligence tool that can generate images of non-existent coastlines. In this way, Monje traced alternative paths in the history of the Balearic landscape and created a new fictional archive, an imaginary and speculative archipelago.

Bárbara Sánchez Barroso
Botanical Dream,
2022

16-MM-FILM, DIGITALIZED,
5:40 MIN



Botanical Dream deals with desires surrounding the botanical garden, a colonial illusion of being able to collect and arrange all the forests of the world in one place. The artist transforms the garden from a mute object into an acting subject. The vegetation of the garden opens the imagination to an impossible rupture: to break through the prison of glass and steel, to invade urban space and overthrow order. Through this disorder and the echo of the forests from which the plants have been forcibly taken, the garden becomes a strange forest as has never been imagined before.