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Islands of Sand

AZAHARA CEREZO

Curator: Jose Iglesias G^a-Arenal

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2 october
2020

Bòlit_LaRambla i Bòlit_PouRodó ●

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Azahara Cerezo's work speaks about our perception of the territory when it is crisscrossed by the technologies of the digital economy. It speaks about the forces – some visible; others, less so – that organize the spaces we inhabit, the tools we use, the work we carry out and the landscapes we observe. Her projects involve poetic cartographies that highlight the interferences between virtual environments, urban interiors and nature spots.

Islands of Sand presents several new projects focusing on the triangle formed by the increasing precariousness of labour, the new digital economies and the extraction of mineral resources. These processes connect the abstraction of the digital sphere to the material reality of the ground we tread. Some of the works on display in this exhibition are the fruit of Cerezo's stay in Gran Canaria, where she has been researching the colonial relationship with the African continent, the extraction of sand from the occupied territories of Western Sahara for the tourism industry of the Canary Islands, and the consequent transformations on the islands. Pieces of abandoned greenhouses and of cement labelled as "from Africa" are transformed into framed "pages" and desks that evoke the bureaucratic work that lies behind the organization of the territory, the paperwork that decides where to move soil, capital, bodies.

The artist continues with the theme of the flow of capital and goods in *Homepage to Labour*, the installation housed in Bòlit_LaRambla, in which she muses on the representation of work in an era in which the boundaries between professional and personal space have become blurred. Through a platform for freelancers, the artist commissions monuments to the world of work, which are to occupy a plinth in an old working-class neighbourhood in the outskirts of Paris. Industrial imagery – featuring references to physical strength, mechanical gear assemblies and the transformation of materials – contrasts with the reality of cognitive work, where the dominant images are bodies in front of computer screens and the outsourcing of work to more "competitive" countries; that is, countries with more irregular employment conditions.

Her latest project is displayed on one of the cement tables at Bòlit_PouRodó: a mobile server on which the artist's personal website is stored (www.azaharacerezo.com). By transferring the files of her website to a portable device and removing them from a standard server situated in a specific geographical location, Cerezo places at the centre of her concerns the imperative of mobility in the post-Fordian economy and, in particular, the forced nomadism of cultural workers. By making visible the physical elements necessary to promote her work as an artist in an economy of visibility, she presents a vision of the artistic practice besieged by delocalizing forces, an unromantic view of digital technologies and their effects on the perception of territory.

Islands of Sand is the reflection of a world in transformation, of the results of colonial extractivism, of the violence that imbues technological progress, of the distance between body and territory in an economy in which the private and professional spheres merge together. But it is also an exercise of resistance through a reflection which refuses to be swayed by the hyper-visual logics of neoliberalism, which stands fast in a fragile position in order to understand the world we inhabit and to imagine alternatives to address global processes such as tourism, the offshoring of manual labour and the precariousness generated by digital technologies.

Azahara Cerezo (Celrà, 1988) holds a Degree in Audio-Visual Communication from the Autonomous University of Barcelona and a Master's Degree in Visual Arts and Multimedia from the Technical University of Valencia. She has held residencies at Art3 (Valence), Colegio de España (Paris), Casa de Velázquez (Madrid) and Flax Art Studios (Belfast), among others. She has recently held solo exhibitions at La Regenta Art Centre (Las Palmas) with "Map of Circumstances", and at MAL (Seville) with "And in that chiaroscuro monsters emerge". She has taken part in group exhibitions such as "Together Apart" (BIENALSUR. Cúcuta, Colombia), "We Are As Gods..." at Nieuwe Vide (Haarlem, Holland), Province 53 at MUSAC (León), "Species of Spaces" at MACBA (Barcelona) and "J(e m)'accuse or The Death of the Author" at Bòlit (Girona).

Public programme

Opening and guided visit

Led by Azahara Cerezo, the artist, and Jose Iglesias G^a-Arenal, the curator

Friday 2 October 2020, at 19:00

[Bòlit_PouRodó](#)

Re:

Led by Azahara Cerezo, the artist, and Jose Iglesias G^a-Arenal, the curator

Thursday 5 November 2020, from 17:00 to 21:00

[Homesession \(Barcelona\)](#)

Computers are designed for two eyes that look and two hands that type, an individual body that sits facing the screen in order to gain access to part of the infosphere. How might we imagine and bring to life other corporeal relations with digital information? Taking the piece *Mobile Server* as its starting point, *Re:* explores other architectural and relational forms that question the privately owned heterosexual regime that organizes the virtual sphere. Through an installation that shows documents generated during the work process and lines that have remained open, *Re:* is a collaboration with Homesession that ties in with the "Islands of Sand" exhibition.

In conversation with Verónica Gago and Remedios Zafra

December 2020

[Virtual](#)

The "Islands of Sand" exhibition connects digital work to the extraction of natural resources and the tourism industry. These activities are transforming our perception of space, of virtual and physical territories, of private and public spaces. During the conversation we will discuss the transformation of domestic space and working from home, of disengagement from face to-face interactions, of the possibilities opening up on our screens and the political importance of physical meetings. Verónica Gago (Argentina, 1976) is a political scientist, teacher and activist of the NiUnaMenos (Not One Woman Less) collective. Remedios Zafra (Zuheros, 1973) is a writer and essayist. She is the author of *Enthusiasm: Precariousness and Creative Work in the Digital Era*.

Visites comentades a l'exposició

Led by Azahara Cerezo, the artist, and Jose Iglesias G^a-Arenal, the curator

Friday 6 November 2020, at 18:00

Led by Azahara Cerezo

Friday 18 December at 18:00

[Bòlit_LaRambla](#)

*All the activities are free of charge and must be booked in advance at info@bolit.cat or on 972 427 627

Bòlit_LaRambla,

Sala Fidel Aguilar

Rambla de la Llibertat, 1 - 17004 Girona

Mondays to Fridays from 9:00 to 20:00

Saturdays from 10:00 to 17:00

Sundays and holidays from 9:00 to 14:00

Bòlit_PouRodó

Plaça de Pou Rodó, 7-9 - 17004 Girona

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Thursdays and Fridays from 10:00 to 14:00

and from 17:00 to 20:00

Saturdays from 11:00 to 14:00 and from 17:00 to 19:00

Sundays and public holidays from 11:00 to 14:00