Muntadas
Entre / Between

The board room, 1987
Instalación

DATES:  
22nd November 2011 – 26th March 2012

PLACE:  
Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía
Sabatini Building: 4th floor and Protocol Room
Nouvel Building: different spaces.

ORGANIZED BY:  
Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia

CURATED BY:  
Daina Augaitis

CO-ORDINATED BY:  
Soledad Liaño, Cristina Guerras y Andrea Nacach

ITINERARY:  
Museo Gulbenkian (Lisboa, Portugal), 31st May – 2nd September 2012
Jeu de Paume (París, Francia), 15th October – 27th January 2013
Vancouver Art Gallery (Vancouver, Canadá), Spring 2013

RELATED ACTIVITIES:  
Meeting: Antoni Muntadas talking with
Daina Augaitis, Enrich Franch, Valentín Roma and
Joaquín Vázquez
23th November 2011, 11:30h
Medio|odeiM. Workshop for young people. Every Saturdays, 4th February to 17th March 2012
11:30 h / 16:30 h
The Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía has organized a major exhibition on the work of Antoni Muntadas (Barcelona, 1942), an internationally renowned artist who was one of the pioneers of conceptual and media art. The show will survey his long career from the seventies to the present day. In the course of those four decades, Muntadas has used performance, video, photography, installations, multimedia, publications, the internet and public art to approach key political and social issues of our time.

His committed work includes a profound and incisive investigation of political situations and aspects of culture. He has explored ideas like the relationship between the public and the private, the flows of information among the media, and the dynamics of official architecture.

The exhibition title, *Entre/Between*, alludes to being slightly removed or ‘in between’, a condition Muntadas has made use of in order to address key political and cultural issues of our time. His body of work frames a discourse on the visible and invisible systems of communication and power in a society increasingly dominated by the spectacles of mass media, hyper consumption and ever-advancing technologies. However, Muntadas’ work does not offer precise narratives or solutions; rather, it lies between, uncovering the connective tissues that constitute the complex social fabric of contemporary life.

This survey exhibition does not present a comprehensive retrospective view, nor does it follow a typical chronological sequence. Instead, it proposes an itinerary with no beginning and no end, using the idea of constellations to thematically link works from different periods of the artist’s production. Nine such constellations articulate the broad field of subjects explored by Muntadas over the last four decades, creating a context that enables viewers to ask themselves, “What are we looking at?”

The exhibition also presents a new work developed by the artist on this occasion. *Situación 2011* —that occupies the four floors of the Nouvel Building— resumes the research carried out by Muntadas in 1988 on the role of this institution. For this site-specific installation, the Reina Sofía is brought into play once again, this time as a case study to explore the current phenomenon of museum expansion and its far-reaching implications.

Muntadas' projects generally respond to particular conditions of time and place: they address a multitude of social contexts, and introduce themselves into a variety of locations, using diverse media. Consequently, the representation of his practice in a museum installation such as this, where his works are inserted into a new time and place, generates a number of paradoxes and requires further translation and reinterpretation—such a process of reframing is itself one of the artist’s principal recurring motifs.

**CONSTELLATION I: MICROESPACIOS / MICROSPACES**

This constellation is organised around works that examine ways of perceiving, arranging and expressing private space. It groups together a series of Muntadas' experiments from the early seventies that explore the limits of our (sub)senses, works that reflect on the tensions between the public and private spheres, and proposals in which reality is physically questioned through the body.

**CONSTELLATION II: PAISAJE DE LOS MEDIA / MEDIA LANDSCAPE**

The term media landscape was coined by Muntadas in the late seventies to refer to a space of communication that appeared with the proliferation of mass media (such as the press, radio, television).

Since then, several projects have examined the opaque flows of information worldwide, motivating a line of research into the means as well as the message of mass communication.


**CONSTELLATION III: ESFERAS DE PODER / SPHERES OF POWER**

Three parallel directions articulate the projects comprising this constellation: one explores the architecture of power, its archetypal spaces, vistas and rituals; another is a set of proposals that examine the gestural choreography of politics; and the third brings together a range of representations —auditory, symbolic and graphic— through which power is delivered.


**CONSTELLATION IV: LA CONSTRUCCIÓN DEL MIEDO / DOMAIN OF FEAR**

This constellation reveals how fear is constructed in the public realm and, above all, how the nature and sources of manipulation and domination bring into play issues of privacy, identity and language.

**CONSTELLATION V: ESPACIOS DE ESPECTÁCULO / PLACES OF SPECTACLE**

This constellation examines ideas about an architecture of containment, primarily through the stadium as one of contemporary society’s most prominent catalysts for the rituals of spectacle to unfold, be they associated with sports, entertainment or politics.


**CONSTELLATION VI: TERRITORIOS DE LO PÚBLICO / COMMUNAL SPACES**

In these works, Muntadas questions the very nature of public space, revealing the competing political and economic interests that strive to impose exclusive urban models. In addition, his interests have led to an exploration of how urban myths and memories are created, and how histories are framed in public space.


**CONSTELLATION VII: EL ARCHIVO / THE ARCHIVE**

From the beginning of his career, the notion of the archive has played an essential role in Muntadas’ work. This constellation encapsulates works that address a variety of accumulations, collections and typologies, to reveal underlying (and paradoxical) methodologies for recording, ordering and remembering.

CONSTELLATION VIII: ÁMBITOS DE LA TRADUCCIÓN / FIELD OF TRANSLATION

These works consider the interpretation of words, concepts, histories and values not only across different languages but also through the invisible conventions inherent in all forms of communication. Translation and its many implications is the central theme of Muntadas’ ongoing *On Translation* series, started in 1995, that comprises works created in a variety of political, cultural and economic contexts.


CONSTELLATION IX: SISTEMAS DEL ARTE / SYSTEMS OF ART

This constellation brings together a series of propositions that examine the ways in which the art world organises its nomenclature, its language of display, its professional hierarchies, its institutional decisions and its various audiences. It can be considered, therefore, a broad-ranging commentary on the many frameworks imposed on art.


Por último, en esta constelación encontramos información sobre la nueva instalación creada por Muntadas a propósito de esta exposición: *Situación 2011*.

SITUACIÓN 2011

Following Muntadas’ earlier work *Situación 1988* that established a temporal relationship between the Museo Reina Sofía and its former function as a hospital, *Situación 2011* is an intervention on four floors of the Nouvel building—four empty spaces that are not directly connected to the Sabatini building that presents the realities for this Museum:

- The relationship between the Sabatini building and the new Nouvel building as another spatial dimension.
- Its transformation, its new dimensions and the resulting circumstances.
- The generic problems surrounding the extension: the relationship between the institution and architecture; the museum’s uses, functions and interpretations.

MUNTADAS, PIONEER OF CONCEPTUAL AND MEDIA ART

Antoni Muntadas (Barcelona, 1942) began his artistic career as a painter. In the early seventies, however, he became interested in action art and moved to New York, where he currently works and lives. Besides an intense teaching activity which he keeps up to this day, his work is also represented in some of the world’s most important collections, including the Museum of Modern Art-MoMA (New York), the Centre National d'Art et de Culture
Georges Pompidou (Paris), the Museo Reina Sofía, the Museu d’Art Contemporani de Barcelona-MACBA (Barcelona) and the Museu de Arte Contemporânea de São Paulo. He has also taken part in some of the foremost international art festivals, such as Documenta VI and X, the 1976 Venice Biennale, the 1981 São Paulo Art Biennial and the Whitney Museum of American Art Biennial (1991). In 2009, he was awarded the Velázquez Prize for the Plastic Arts.

CATALOGUE

The Museo Reina Sofía is bringing out a catalogue (with a Spanish and English version) for the exhibition that will be divided in nine constellations and will include essays by critics and art historians like Jo-Anne Birnie Danzker, Ina Blom, Eugeni Bonet, Judith Revel, Simon Marchan Fiz, Emily Apter and Valentín Roma, as well as one by the curator of the exhibition, Daina Augaitis.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

**Meeting Antoni Muntadas. Entre / Between**
Antoni Muntadas will talk with Daina Augaitis, curator of this exhibition; Enric Franch, exhibition designer; Valentín Roma, independent curator; and Joaquín Vázquez, member of BNV Producciones.

**Date:** 23th November 2011  
**Time:** 11:30 h.  
**Place:** Nouvel Building, Auditorium 200  
**Access:** Free entrance until full capacity

**Workshop for young people Miedo | odeiM**
On occasion of *Muntadas. Entre / Between* exhibition, this activity offers a reflection on power and its use of publicity and propaganda in the media.

**Date:** every Saturday from February 4 to March 17, 2012  
**Time:** 11:30 h or 16:30 h  
**Target audience:** 13 to 18 years old  
**Registration:** hastadieciocho@museoreinasofia.es
FTP ACCESS DETAILS FOR MUNTADAS. ENTRE/BETWEEN EXHIBITION:

ftp://77.226.250.242
Login: MuntadasExpo
Password: 510DQS477

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