

JOSEP MAYNOU
10.11.2018 | 29.12.2018

POPULAIRE

Curator: Arielle Bier

"Josep Maynou's work is bound to curious storytelling – moments lost in translation and chance experiences, both real and imagined. From textiles and sculpture to drawings and video, each piece tells a witty tale of social exchange.

On his journeys across Europe, North Africa and Latin America, Maynou collects peculiar objects and personal stories from the people he meets in mountain farming villages, electronic repair shops, local bars and private homes. Mundane objects such as skateboards, toilet plungers and cigarette packs along with familiar symbols like the yin-yang and Nike swoosh are re-imagined, re-purposed and re-cast as characters in his tragicomic vignettes.

Maynou's work explores the possibilities of chance and interpretation, with humor often carving the path. Movie posters depict motorcycle adventure films, yet to be made. Lamps assembled from found objects become animate creatures. Carpets woven with graphic images and pop-cultural references tether customs and play. And at the center of it all is a water fountain, the legendary meeting place where dueling cowboys, bank robbers and rats alike come to quench their thirst and leave their marks.

Incidentally, the bittersweet connections between everyday boredom and aspirational dreams are steadily unmasked. Mishaps, misgivings and misunderstandings are flipped on their heads, turned inside out and used as springboards with unexpected outcomes."

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Josep Maynou (Barcelona, 1980) lives and works between Berlin and Paris. He studied Fine Art at Universitat de Barcelona, Faculdade de Belas Artes do Porto and Middlesex University in London.

Recent solo exhibitions include: Leisure (Bombon Projects, Barcelona, 2017); Thing 1, Thing 2 (Broken Dimanche, Berlin, 2017); Things: To do (Beverly's, New York, 2017); and The Ninja from Marrakech (Galerie Suvi Lehtinen, Berlin, 2015).

He has been featured in group exhibitions: Hunter of Worlds (Curated by Elise Lammer, SALTS, Birsfelden, Switzerland, 2018); My body doesn't like summer (Haverkamp Gallery, Berlin, 2018); Alpina Huus II. House of Deep Transformation in 12 Acts. (Le Commun, Geneva, 2017); How to do things... (Curated by Juan Luís Toboso, Lehmann + Silva, Porto, 2017); The inclination of the angle (Junefirst Gallery, Berlin, 2015); Black Garden (Galería Louis 21, Palma de Mallorca, 2018).

He has shown in art fairs: CODE, Copenhagen; Arco Lisboa; and Sunday, London.

Recent performances also include: Pane Per Poveri (Laatrach, documenta 14, Athens, 2017), Making Public Program (Fundació Tapies, Barcelona, 2017); and Material Art Fair (Mexico City, 2016).

Arielle Bier a US/UK writer, editor and curator based in London (and formerly Berlin).

Her writing is widely published in contemporary art and culture publications such as Artforum, Art-Agenda, Artsy, Frieze, Metropolis M and Modern Painters.

She has contributed to Phaidon's Vitamin book series on ceramics and textiles (forthcoming); written the complete artist profiles for Astral Bodies by the Künstlerhaus Bethanien; worked as an editor for the transmediale festival of art and digital culture in Berlin, Germany and Art on the Underground and the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London, UK; and is the copy editor of the art and design journal The Plant.

Bier has taught as a guest professor at the University of the Arts Helsinki, Finland, and has been a guest juror for the Rupert Residency Programme in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Currently, she is editing the anthology Städel Schule Lectures, which features prominent lectures, interviews and essays presented at the Städel Schule Academy of Fine Arts in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.