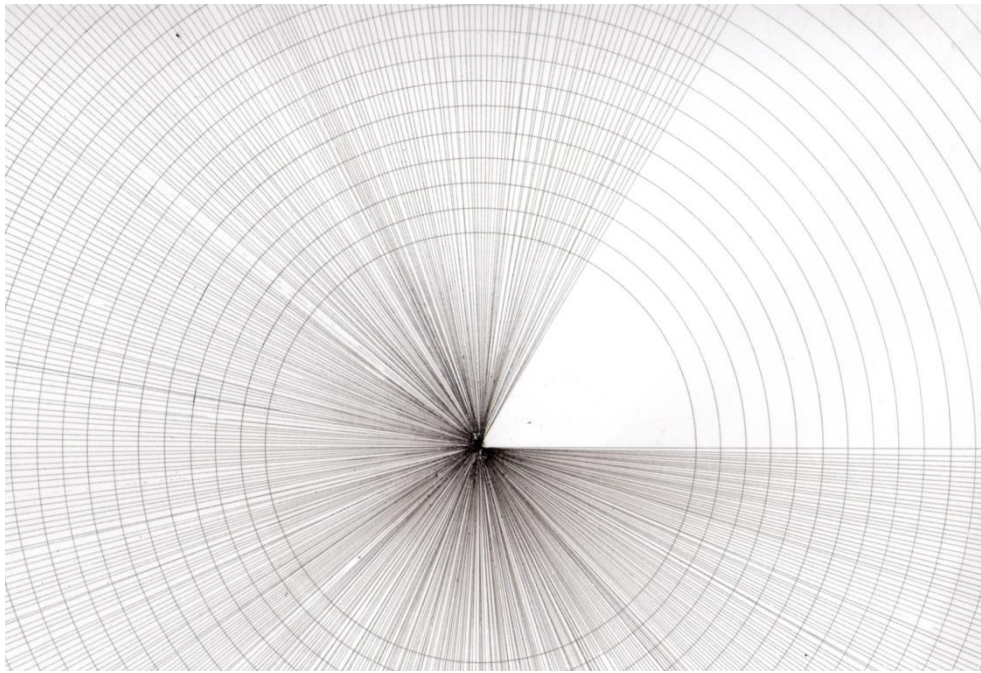


Pep Vidal

Trees, Treelines and Global Patterns

From July 2nd to September 19th 2015

Opening: Thursday July 2nd from 6pm



“There are things that seem to be by chance or out of control, when actually they are not; and vice versa”. Pep Vidal

Pep Vidal, a mathematician who recently received a doctorate in physics, focuses his research on the infinitesimal changes that can happen at any time and in any place. In other words, on changes that are imperceptible to the human eye and, precisely because of this, enormously surprising. Another branch of his research focusses on the “false randomness” of certain natural phenomena that are erroneously perceived as chance occurrences because of a lack of information. What is the rule that defines the randomness? Surely it is too complex for us to decode because of our limitations, so we will therefore continue to perceive these phenomena as something that happens by chance.

The artist states that the incomplete information we have about systems (spaces where things can occur) remains somewhere between poetry and randomness, the latter of which opposes human ambition to have control over reality. The human being is the only living creature able to consciously transform the world: nature, society and thought.

Pep Vidal gives his voice about this awareness and control in the exhibition *Trees, Treelines and Global Patterns* at ADN Gallery, within the framework of ArtNou 2015. The project stems from a trip by train from Barcelona to Girona, where the artist noticed that the woods seen from the window which appeared to be wild had, in fact, been intentionally arranged in rows.

Vidal, confronting this epistemological evidence, investigates the phenomenon of so-called treelines, demonstrating that nature too orders its elements according to patterns, the means of systematising complex phenomena. Through a series of drawings, Vidal shows us what is involved in the concept of treelines—a global phenomenon that, contrary to his experience on the train, seems to involve manipulation by human beings when this is not the case. Thus, the sense of randomness and control is reversed here, as it is the treeline which marks the boundary of the habitat in which trees are able to grow, whether for environmental, ecological or climatic conditions.

Although technological progress and accumulated knowledge means that patterns are increasingly better documented, the understanding of how and why they exist is still a great intellectual challenge. Taking up this challenge, Pep Vidal generates the project that revolves around a 19-metre tree: The starting point is the calculation of the total volume by cutting the tree into identical volumetric sections, thereby finding a parameter, a pattern. This is followed by the difficulty of calculating the tree's volume, given the non-homogeneous geometry of roots, stem, trunk, branches and leaves. The accompanying video installation is a record of the whole process of using computer programming in order to reach the final result.



Photography by Paula Artés

Pep Vidal's work proposes a reflection on the controllable and the wild, randomness and rules, patterns and parameters. In a scientific and artistic context, and under a contingent and analytical gaze, the artist uses his projects to look for a formula to understand the realities of nature.

PEP VIDAL _ Biography

(Barcelona, Spain, 1980)

www.pepvidal.com

Degree in Mathematics at Universitat Autònoma of Barcelona (UAB) (2008). Special interest in infinitesimal calculus, topology and infinite series.

PhD in Physics in UAB and ALBA synchrotron (2014). Thesis research about mathematical algorithms for improving accuracy of instruments used in particle accelerators. He has two important conclusions from here: there are some extremely sensitive and complex systems; and he is not interested in research that doesn't include his own experience and vital life in the process.

Pep Vidal works with infinitesimal changes -changes really small- that are constantly always everywhere. The chain of infinitesimal changes is infinite and chaotic

EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

Rolando Anselmi Gallery, Berlin, 2015 (double-solo), Fabbrica del Vapore, EXPO, Milan, 2015 Generaciones 2015, La Casa Encendida, Madrid, 2015, La buena estrella, curated by Carolina Castro, OTR, Madrid, 2015 ARCO, L21 Gallery, Madrid, Los límites del control, L21 Gallery, Madrid, 2015 (solo), Solo project, Art-O-Rama, Marsella, 2014 (solo) Una cabaña para acabar la tesis, Can Felipa Arts Visuals, Barcelona, 2014 L'ocell que vola, Esther Montoriol Gallery, Barcelona, 2014 Beyond, THE WINDOW, L 21 Gallery, Madrid, 2014 Un humilde calcetín, Fundació Antoni Tapies, Barcelona, 2014

GRANTS AND PRIZES

Propuestas VEGAP 2014 (Plastic Arts).
Generaciones 2015.
Miquel Casablanca 2014 (Publication).
Espai Cub, La Capella. Institut de Cultura de Barcelona, 2013.
PhD Grant of Catalan Government for research in Physics (2008-12).

RESIDENCIES

Resident artist at Hangar, Barcelona, 2013-15.
Resident artist at FARE, Milano, Oct-Dec 2013.
Resident artist in Casa de Velázquez, Madrid, Oct-Dec 2014.

COLLECTIONS

Anny De Decker Collection, Antwerpen
Francisco Cantos Collection, Madrid
Urbano Collection, Madrid
Fundación Montemadrid, Madrid
Arxiu del Centre d'Estudis i Documentació del MACBA, Barcelona
Centro de Documentación y Biblioteca del MNCARS, Madrid
MoMA Library, New York



Me and me in 20 years / My father and my father 20 years ago