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pep vidal

who wants to be an impatient gardener?

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25.11.2017—27.01.2018

This project started in September 2016, when Vidal bought the entire stock of a plant store in Barcelona's Gràcia neighborhood. His goal was to measure the variations and interactions of more than 300 plants, evaluating, among other factors, their surface, volume, color, humidity, and light. Vidal soon realized that each plant required a distinct watering schedule. He developed his research in collaboration with his colleagues at the optics group in the physics department at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. By using lasers to measure the cells' composition and the water accumulation in leaves, Vidal and his colleagues are developing a methodology with several potential applications, from the early detection of diseases to sustainable agricultural systems. This research is currently being developed in partnership with other institutions, including the Botanical Institute of Barcelona. The team will soon publish the results in various scientific journals.

Now, a new phase of Vidal's project will be presented simultaneously at ADN Gallery in Barcelona and the Abrons Arts Center in New York. This presentation started off with the idea of importing all the plants in the project to the United States, which prompted a broad effort to process all the required paperwork through the usual bureaucratic procedures required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and their Spanish counterparts. The fate of this process remains uncertain, as there are multiple factors, both biological and legal, that could potentially disrupt the transportation of the plants. This branch of the project points to a system of intricate relations between entities that conform to a globalized network of mobility and transportation. Airplanes, phytosanitary certificates, e-mails, cardboard boxes, government officials, the departments of agriculture of both administrations, courier services, plant species, and the streets of Barcelona and New York are connected in an entanglement that is activated by this project. Vidal's interest in systems and their performance underlines an artistic attention to networks and their fluctuations.

Beyond the possible application of the scientific research related to the project, the interest in finding a precise system of measurement also has implications within the art field. This effort suggests a proximity to the object of study that looks for synchronicity, for a lateral – as opposed to vertical hierarchy, – which implies a recognition of relationships within the environment, between the human and the non-human. Its plastic and performative articulation leads us to consider the possibility of finding other types of social and political connection. Thus, the space for art.

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Pep Vidal, 1980

Pep Vidal works with infinitesimal changes that are constantly happening in systems which chain is (almost) infinite and chaotic. He obtained a Degree in Mathematics at *Universitat Autònoma of Barcelona* (UAB) in 2008 and in 2014 he got a PhD in Physics in UAB and ALBA synchrotron, with a thesis research about mathematical algorithms for improving accuracy of instruments used in particle accelerators. Pep Vidal 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 has exhibited solo at several institutions such as Museo de Arte Contemporáneo del Zulia in Venezuela and Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya. Vidal has participated in different group shows at Caixaforum, Half House Barcelona, Fabbrica del Vapore in Italy, EXPO 2015, Generaciones 2015, La Casa Encendida, Madrid, 2015, OTR Madrid.

He has won several awards like Fundación Botín Visual Arts Grant 2016-2017 and Miquel Casablanças Awards 2014.

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