

## La maleta e q r

(The e q r suitcase)



July 6, 2021 - October 30, 2021

This exhibition is based on a story that I was told many years ago, and that still haunts me.

In 1985 I got a scholarship to take a higher German course in Schwäbisch Hall, a town in the middle of the Black Forest, an hour from Stuttgart. That year was especially cold, there were heavy snowfalls in most of Europe. My course started on January 3, and when I arrived in Germany, an impressive layer of snow covered everything. When the train stopped at Schwäbisch Hall station, I was very disoriented because I had passed through a snowy landscape, without many landmarks, and with a gray light that made everything uniform. Schwabish Hall station was a small one. But there was a locker, a room to store luggage and a manager who was the one who showed me the way to get to my destination. After walking about a hundred meters, turning a curve, I saw the village at the bottom of a small valley, surrounded by snow-covered fir forests. It was the first time I was traveling alone and that seemed like a dream to me.

I had a very nice teacher named Klaus Knipp. We did grammar class in the mornings and German literature in the afternoons. After classes, we had long gatherings with the teacher. On the first day, he asked all of us the same question: "Did you see the H.H. suitcase at the station?". Neither of us had noticed, and then he told us a story.

One day long ago, a man had presented himself to the station manager. He was carrying a large, heavy black suitcase with the golden initials H.H. in the center. He told him that he had a trip to take, and asked if he could leave the suitcase in the locker until he got back. The manager said yes, and he kept it there himself. When he left, the man was gone. Days, weeks and months passed. The man with the suitcase did not return and the station attendant began to get restless. He looked at the suitcase every day and wondered what should be inside. One day his curiosity was stronger than his prudence and he opened it. The suitcase was full of paintings, photographs and even some sculpture.

During the course, I took the train every weekend to go to Stuttgart to see exhibitions or go shopping. One day when the locker door was open, I saw the suitcase. The initials H.H. glowed in the dark. When the course finished and I returned to Barcelona, the suitcase was still there.

The following summer I returned to Schwäbisch Hall, this time on vacation. I visited my old teacher and asked him about the suitcase. "It's gone," -he explained-, "One day the man who had left it finally came. He said he was Harry Haller \* , and that he came to pick up the suitcase. And that's the end of the story".

Since then, I have always remembered that suitcase, and the mysterious person who put his works of art inside ... For this reason, we have imagined that we should fill a suitcase with works of artists that we like, and we have chosen small ones to that can fit inside. We have chosen works by: **Daniel Berdala, Jordi Casañas, Amparo Fernández, Jesús Galdón, Oriol Jolonch, Salvador Juanpere, Elena Kervinen, Jordi Lafon, Fiona Morrison and David Ymbernon.** Most of these works have been never seen before, and they will be shown in the gallery until the end of October.

\* Curiously, the protagonist's name of Hermann Hesse's novel *The Steppenwolf* was Harry Haller. He lived in an attic, surrounded by paintings, photographs and memories. The acronym for Harry Haller is the same as for Hermann Hesse, it is said that it is an autobiographical reference.

Anna Belsa

### About the works (10) and the artists (20)

**Daniel Berdala's** tightrope walkers (Barcelona, 1968) are a reference to how we have felt and still feel during the last months. On your feet, but on a tightrope. **Jordi Casañas** (Barcelona, 1969) photographs urban details loaded with poetry that go unnoticed. **Amparo Fernández** (Barcelona, 1962) learns from nature that life germinates in the most absolute darkness to finally rise, towards the light. **Jesús Galdón** (Barcelona, 1967) shows us that reality is a field tilled with accidents, and that an accident can be an open door to an unexplored path. If there is a

character with whom we can identify at this time, it is with Mr. Jones by **Oriol Jolnoch** (Barcelona, 1973), who turns his back on us while contemplating a landscape that he does not quite understand. **Salvador Juanpere** (Vilaplana, Tarragona, 1953), presents two sculptures that reflect on the history of art, one relates two classical authors of the twentieth century and the other on the *puntelli*, elements that go unnoticed to the eye, but are essential the construction of classical sculptures. The most recent artistic production of **Elena Kervinen** (Iisalmi, Finland, 1970), reflects on the idea of fragmentation, highlighting not only what remains, but what is missing, so that we can imagine the complete story. **Jordi Lafon** (Barcelona, 1967) reflects on the ability of art to unite experience with imagination. **Fiona Morrison's** works (Encamp, Andorra, 1970) are always a reminder of the ephemeral, of the passage of time, and of the importance of memory. **David Ymberton** (Iguada, 1972) refers us to the power of the imagination and the authors who have created an alternative world from a flight from the reality that surrounds us.

Daniel Berdala



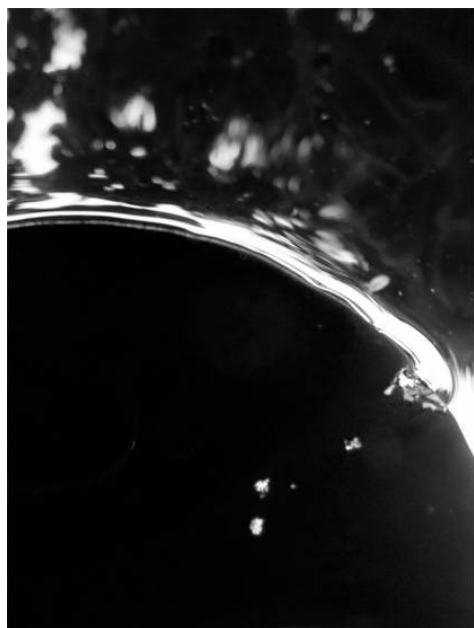
Retornant a l'horitzó, 2021 (*Returning to the horizon*)  
oil on canvas 30 x 45 cm (11.8 x 17.7 in)

Jordi Casañas



Steel trees, 2018, digital print on aluminum,  
40 x 30 cm (15.75 x 11.81 in) ed. 5 ex.

Amparo Fernández



Aigua 12, 2019 (*Water 12*) digital print  
30 x 40 cm (15.75 x 11.81 in) ed. 10 ex.

Oriol Jonloch



Mr. Jones XXIII. Yin Yang, 2017  
digital print, 18 x 13 cm, ed. 25 ex  
(7,09 x 5,12 in)

Jesús Galdón



L'accident de ..., 2021, golden aluminum and the root of a geranium, 85 x 74 x 12 cm (33.46 x 29.13 x 4.7 in) edition of 10 ex.

Salvador Juanpere



Ceci n'est pas la pipe de Brancusi, 2021 Iroko wood and pencil drawing on paper 22 x 36 x 18 cm (8.66 x 14.1 x 7.09 in)

Elena Kervinen



Vida de la libel-lula II, 2019 (Dragonfly life II) mixed media on marble, 32 x 25 x 2 cm (12.6 x 9.84 x 0.79 in)

Jordi Lafon



Cigrons, llenties i regals, 2021 mixed media paper, 51,2 x 35,6 x 7,1 cm (20.16 x 14.01 x 2.79)

Fiona Morrison



Fulla 2, 2019, (*Leaf 2*) single copy.  
transfer on paper, 29 x 22,5 cm  
(11.42 x 8.86 in)

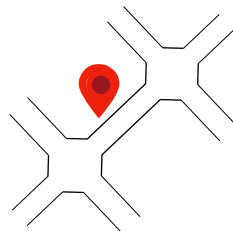
David Ymberson



Llibre d'acció Carles Hac Mor, 2018  
(*Action book Carles Hac Mor*)  
watercolor, 21 x 23 cm (9.05 x 8.27 in)

The exhibition will be open until October 30, 2021. For more information,  
contact the gallery: [info@elquadernrobot.com](mailto:info@elquadernrobot.com) – 93 368 36 72  
el quadern robot, còrsega, 267, principal 2 b, 08008 barcelona, [elquadernrobot.com](http://elquadernrobot.com)

el quadern robot



barcelona  
[elquadernrobot.com](http://elquadernrobot.com)

