facsimile eqr TRANSLATION

REVIEW
FIGHT FOR ART

Cinc anys a les trinxeres
Group show. El Quadern Robat |
Barcelona | Until, September 28 |
Prices: from **350** to **6,500** euros |
Tel. 93-368-36-72

Juan Bufill
I conclude the series of reflections that I started a month ago. I was referring last week to an interview with Félix Cervera published in the magazine *Tendencias del Mercado del Arte*, where the archaeologist and gallery owner explained how Spanish laws are a direct cause of the destruction of the rich archaeological heritage of this country. Unlike other countries, Spanish law punishes the collector. And the worst part is that finding an archeological pieces is usually a problem with the law: "Then -says Cervera-, builders, if they find something, they crush it". They destroy hundreds of valuable museum pieces, which nobody else gets to see.

Cervera uses the word *struggle* to define his work: "Our struggle is agains misunderstanding. In England, it is not penalized to find pieces of art, half is for those who find them and the other for the State, but here they accuse you of reuptake. There must be a legislation, but if the collectionism is repressed, the heritage goes out".

"*Five years in the trenches*" is the title of the exhibition that celebrates the first five years of the gallery El Quadern Robat, founded by Anna Belsa. It includes suggestive works, such as a drawing and broken marble installation by Elena Kervinen (see image). The gallery owner explains that the context is complicated and the survival heroic: "Anyway, the fight is being very stimulating to us".

It seems significant to me that two gallery owners so different from each other use the same term to define their work: *fight*. Apparently, today defending contemporary art and ancient art in Spain means fighting against adverse circum-stances, generated or aggravated by wrong laws, hostile to art, to its authors and its defenders. Spain is in this sense a premodern country, and Catalonia too.●