

Dins del bosc (*In the forest*)



June 13, 2018 - September 29, 2018

The forest, as a background or as a protagonist, has been one of the main themes of both art and literature. Perhaps because of the influence of Christianity, which tried to eliminate any traces of pagan traditions, the forest was described in literature as an inhospitable, inaccessible place, populated by fantastic or terrifying beings. In many stories and legends, the forest inspires an irrational fear. Enter into it means to enter an unknown world, full of danger and mystery. We can put examples that go from the story of *Little Red Riding Hood* of Perrault, the Legends of King Arthur, Robin Hood, *The Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad, *The Dream of a Summer*



Israel Ariño



Jordi Casañas

Night by Shakespeare or even *The Divine Comedy*, which in the first verses, a lost poet has no choice but to cross a forest, aware of the darkness and the dangers that await him. With the Illustration, this idea changes. With Rousseau, the discourse of the need to return to nature appears, as a way out of the

corruption of life in cities. The forest is then contemplated as a place of freedom, truth and happiness. It becomes a symbol of the return to paradise, to the origin; a perfect metaphor of authenticity. In the nineteenth century, Thoreau writes



Bernat Gasull

Walden, life in the woods, a mixture of biography and naturalistic journal that makes think about the need to return to nature to find the balance that lacks in the life in the western world. Thus, we are faced with a theme that has been represented from the fantastic to the realist conception, from the fear of the wild and sinister, to the idea of refuge, back to the origin. The forest can be a metaphor for the most terrible, as well as for peace and purity.



The exhibition *In the forest* presents the work of six contemporary photographers who have portrayed the forest from their particular points of view. It is interesting to see that each one of them exhibits, in his photographs, one or several ways of seeing the forest: from the magical or fantastic conception, to the naturalistic vision. The forests of **Israel Ariño** are a kind of metaphorical territory. The lack of perspective distances them from the idea of landscape, and

makes them the reflection of a hidden world that dialogues with its own imaginary. **Jordi Casañas** finds in the forest a random element that centers all the prominence of photography. Focusing gives it magical, almost mythological properties. The vision of **Bernat Gasull** is that of a naturalist, who shows the forest as a place full of life. The center of his attention is the vegetation itself; how it shades the light and perfumes the air. Supernatural things happen in the forests of **Oriol Jolonch**; Sometimes the forest is alive and observes. It is also a wild place in which man enters into the unknown, or in which the past is explained from a remote future. **Laia Moreto** observes



the elusive nature of the forest, which contains both the sensation of freedom and the presence of the enigmatic. Her will is to preserve the moment when an unknown place becomes a place to live in. **Fiona Morrison** sees the forest as a family space revived in memory. A sheltered place to which she always returns; where life is preserved and memory flows.

The exhibition will be open until September 29, 2018. For more information, please contact: info@elquadernrobot.com

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About the photographers

Israel Ariño (Barcelona 1974) graduated in Fine Arts in University of Barcelona, studied photography between 1992 and 1998, complementing his training by working in several workshops. Since 2001, he has exhibited regularly in Spain, but especially in France, where he is represented by Galerie Vu in Paris. In 2006 he began publishing artist's books, which allow him to explore, in visual terms, the potential of the book and its possible narratives. In 2013, he joined the editorial Ediciones anómalas.

Jordi Casañas (Barcelona 1969) works as a documentary photographer for various public and private entities. At the same time he develops an intense creative facet that has been seen in several individual exhibitions, among which we highlight: "37 photographs approximately", Can Felipa, Barcelona, 2007; "The new things exalts me, I fall in love with the old ones", Encants de Barcelona 2013; "21 photographs", el quadern robot, Barcelona 2015; and "Honey Wheat 17 photographs", Agustí Centelles Library, Barcelona 2015. He was finalist in the 2017 Lens Culture Award.

Bernat Gasull i Roig (Barcelona, 1971. Son and grandson of photographers, is training biologist trained and fond of mountaineering, nature and travel. He has published *The Ascents of Verdaguer in the Pyrenees* (Cossetània, 2008). He has also written several articles in magazines, especially about mountain, and holds lectures and informative talks about the relationship of Verdaguer with the Pyrenean high mountains. Verdaguer's hiker facet is also one of the protagonists of his fictional work *Journey to the Penguin Island* (Voliana, 2013). His photographs show the vision of a naturalist.

Oriol Jolonch (Barcelona 1973) is a photo retouching professional with more than 20 years of experience. He has worked with numerous renowned photographers and for the main fashion and cosmetics brands. In parallel, his creativity has led him to unite his two great passions: photography and postproduction. He has produced an extensive series of works that have been exhibited internationally and has won numerous awards. Among the most recent exhibitions, we highlight the anthology at the Vila Casas Foundation (Barcelona 2015), and the individual exhibitions at the Artifact gallery (New York 2015) and el quadern robot (Barcelona 2014 and 2017).

Laia Moreto (Barcelona 1975), has a degree in Fine Arts from the University of Barcelona and studied photography at the Institute of Photographic Studies of Catalonia and sculpture at the Glass Center Foundation of Barcelona. Her work has won several awards. In 2010 she participated in "Visionado", an emerging art competition in Lleida and in 2012 she was selected as "Full Artist" at the Tarragona International Photography Festival, SCAN 2012. Parallel to her creative work, she develops teaching tasks at the Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of Barcelona.

Fiona Morrison (Encamp, Andorra 1970) had her first photography exhibition at the Joan Prats-Artgràfic gallery in 2003, where in 2006 she exhibited a part of the work in progress "A special place", which has taken her to travel around the world portraying artists in an environment chosen by them. In 2013 she represented Andorra at the Venice Festival, with the video "Two Walks", in homage to her mother. She has recently made the exhibition "Time" in the Friends of the Girona Museum space (Girona 2016), and has participated in the collective exhibitions "Homage to Carvalho", in the Jaume Fuster Library of Barcelona (2017) and "Empordoneses", in L'Escorxador in Figueres