

MARIJO RIBAS.

PEDRADA

25.07— 24.08.25
CASAL DE CULTURA
CAN GELABERT,
BINISSALEM

Curated by:

—Pilar Rubí



Marijo Ribas, *Pedrada*, 2025. Single-channel video 7'31" © of the work of art, Marijo Ribas, 2025.
Photograph: Courtesy of the artist

The project that Marijo Ribas unfolds in “Pedrada” in the framework of Biennal B addresses multiple issues and problems intertwined around the landscape and the economy, the result of the globalisation of the planet: from the temporary migratory movements of mass tourism to the consequences of repeated human actions on the same territory; from waste management to circular economies. All of them affect the fragility and sustainability of ecosystems and, in this case, focus on the pressure generated by tourism on the island of Menorca, a biosphere reserve.

All these approaches are formalised in a video installation accompanied by sculptures that could be seen in the Sala Sant Antoni in Maó, Menorca, and will also be seen in the Sales Pompeianes de Can Gelabert, in Binissaleem, Mallorca. In addition, a series of drawings, watercolours and unpublished photographic collages that materialise a process of work and documentation around an event that is repeated continuously on the neighbouring island can be seen for the first time in the Sales Florentines.

Her research is based on a surprising report that was published on the national press in 2024: every year, approximately one tonne of stones and sand is intercepted at the airport scanners in Menorca in the hand luggage of tourists who want to take a souvenir of the island with them. Another part, probably much larger in quantity, travels in checked luggage, which does not pass through security filters, to an infinite number of destinations. Most of these stones will, at some point, end up being discarded. This geological plundering is blocked, as a result of an agreement between AENA and the Consell Insular de Menorca.

At the end of the tourist season, Marijo Ribas follows the trail of the confiscated rocks and gets to know Mestral, a social and labour insertion organisation for people in a situation or at risk of social exclusion that depends on Càritas Menorca and in which waste reuse and recycling activities are carried out. After a geological training course, the stony cache is separated into five different groups which, by colour—white, yellow, red, grey and dark grey—correspond to the five geological landscapes of the island, to which the stones will be returned to their respective areas as a form of real restitution.

In Mestral, she learns about another equally astonishing reality: that of the tonnes of clothes that are collected in this institution. Just as the souvenir-rock will travel to end up discarded, a part of the volume of clothing will end its journey in the textile landfills of countries of the global south such as Ghana, India or Chile, among many others. This textile colonialism means that the clothes that we discard in Western countries form a new landscape in these faraway places, in this case not of sand and rock, but of mountains and cliffs of fabrics. Marijo Ribas masterfully unites these two realities, apparently formally and symbolically dissimilar, in a series of pieces that are fabric sculptures. These pieces, made from the patterns and images of the stones recovered in the 2024 season, show on the outside the photographed texture, to which the artist gives volume by filling it, precisely, with the recycled clothing that the same entity has already considered waste.

Pedrada refers to the action of intentionally throwing a stone with one’s hand, but in the Catalan language of the islands it also has the meaning of naming an enormous quantity of stones. We see them in the video, either forming part of the geological eras of Menorca visualised in the five chromatic ranges mentioned above, or being manipulated by the human hand which, literally and symbolically, selects and distributes them. A hand that separates and destroys, but, at the same time, restores and returns to nature what is its own. The sound piece that accompanies the images is a creation by Joana Gomila and Laia Vallès, in search of a possible and mysterious language in which these inert bodies, the stones, could speak to each other.

Marijo Ribas is a visual artist, researcher, and designer. Her practice critically reflects on the representation of class and gender relations, identity geopolitics, and the preservation or exploitation of territory. From a multidisciplinary perspective, particularly influenced by photography, video, and installation, she reproduces scenes that embody a complex ideology.

She has developed exhibition projects in venues such as CENART (Mexico), FRAC (Corsica), Spazju Kreattiv (Malta), MUU Kaapeli (Helsinki), Ruse Gallery (Bulgaria), A7 Gallery (Slovakia), Hilvaria Studio’s Gallery (Tilburg, Netherlands), Circulo de Bellas Artes (Madrid), Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona, LABoral Centro de Arte (Zaragoza), Es Baluard Museu (Palma), and others. She has completed numerous residencies at production and research centers such as Lichtenberg Studios Berlin, Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop, Belgrade AIR, Las Cigarreras Alicante, and MediaLAB Prado Madrid, among others.

LIST OF WORKS:

Untitled
2025
Soft sculpture (print fabric, clothing and foam)
Dimensions variable

Buit (I, II, III, IV, V)
2025
Watercolor, ink and collage with photography
30 x 42 cm

Untitled (I-XVII)
2025
Watercolor and marker
36,50 x 31,50 cm

Farcit i buit (I-X)
2025
Pencil and collage with photography
20 x 20 cm

Les pedres
2025
5 shelves covered with sand and stones
150 x 20 cm aprox.

Castells
2024
3 sculptures made of iron, cork and sand
150 x 100 cm approx.

Pedrada
2025
5 videos, 50 soft sculptures (print fabric, clothing and foam), audio piece by Joana Gomila and Laia Vallès (Duration: 7’)
Dimensions variables

BIENNAL B is an initiative promoted by Es Baluard Museu d’Art Contemporani de Palma and the Consell de Mallorca, with the support of numerous institutions, agents and collectives of the island.

BIENNAL B highlights the cultural richness of the island of Mallorca and the Balearic archipelago with art as a tool.

BIENNAL B is a transversal, inclusive and non-seasonal project, born with the ambition to shape a creative ecosystem capable of integrating contemporary artistic practices with crafts and trades for the sustainable transformation of the Balearic territory.

BIENNAL B will activate ecological and cultural connectivity actions, a series of interdisciplinary creative projects and an international congress on art, culture and science.

PROJECT: Biennal B. Imaginaries of the Possible

TITLE: «Marijo Ribas. Pedrada»

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 Can Gelabert
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