

# introduction bac! 05, 6<sup>th</sup> edition

## WHO WE ARE

**La Santa Cultural Projects** is an association directed by Gigi R.Harrington and Juan José Fernández, founded in 1993 with the aim to promote artistic events different from what museums and conventional galleries normally show. As a result, La Santa marked an experimental and creative line of work that did not exist in Barcelona, and was soon converted into a well-known platform for the promotion of contemporary artists. In its twelve years of existence, **La Santa** has preserved its interest to diffuse plurality in contemporary art languages.

The whole philosophy of this work done throughout the years found its best expression in the organisation of one of **La Santa's** most important events: the organisation of the six-year-old BAC! Festival.

The **BAC!** Festival (International Contemporary Art Festival of Barcelona) begins in 2000 from the urge to create an art festival showing all different versions of contemporary art and encouraging the participation of emerging artists from Spain and abroad.

The **BAC!** Festival, guaranteed by a solid trajectory, counts on the support of hundreds of artists, who make it real and attractive to an important number of visitors year after year. During its first editions there was always a guest country: Switzerland, Denmark or Mexico. Since 2003 the Festival has a special topic changing every year: the fears, the skin and in this last edition, the violence.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

The first **BAC!** was organised in 2000 around the Ribera neighbourhood. More than 70 artistic interventions transformed shop windows into small art rooms. The Festival's main exhibition took place in the *Convent de Sant Agustí*, where a show dedicated to the guest country, Switzerland, was housed. All activities were linked by one motto, the geographical axis of which was the Paseo del Born: *2001, a date that evokes the future... or announces the past.*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of **BAC!** returned to Barcelona's streets with a variety of proposals in shop windows, galleries, public spaces, bars or hairdressing salons mainly located in Ciutat Vella and La Ribera areas. Eager to encourage cultural exchanges between countries, the Festival invited Denmark as a guest country. There were about one hundred proposals, among which exhibitions, shows of ModArte and performances.

The **BAC!** 3<sup>rd</sup> edition in 2002 had two big thematic exhibitions, one in the Contemporary Cultural Centre of Barcelona (CCCB), titled *Aterrizaje Forzoso*, a trip among different territories and cultures, and one in the Espai Vau del Centro de Arte Santa Mónica, titled *La Vanguardia Mexicana* and dedicated to young Mexican artists. Those were the two main axis followed by urban interventions, performances and ModArte in civic centres, bars, shops, art galleries, restaurants, studios, balconies and bookstores.

The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of **BAC!** in 2003 did not have a guest country, although it included a group show of Paraguayan artists. Although there was not any official main theme either, all artistic proposals were gathered under one concept: fears. Due to the political and social situation people were living at that time, the artists expressed spontaneously the reflection of a common feeling in their work. More than sixty artists participated in the exhibition at the CCCB, apart from the video-creations presented in the MACBA. That year ModArte was housed in the French Institute and in the CCCB.

The **BAC!** 5<sup>th</sup> edition was organised under the topic *The Skin*. This time, the CCCB housed the Festival's main exhibition, which included 49 artists of various nationalities. The total number of interventions for the Festival arrived to 175, taking into account the guest artists (Christofer Chin – Tofer –, Petter Hegre, Alberto Roblest, the French group *Sang 9* or the Swiss *Lulúxpo*, among

others), proposals from collaborating media (Wendy & Rita, 50\_Easy, Arte Net, Revista Mu, Periquete.com, Espacio3.com) as well as galleries and other venues in Barcelona (Casa Elizalde, Taller Caminal, Escola d' Art Leonardo da Vinci, Espai Pupu, Galeria Hartmann, Espacio Theredoom, freud b' ART, Ob-Art, Àrea Tangent, Espai 1919, Galeria Maxalot, Galeria Fotonauta and Escuela IDEP).

## **BAC! 2005\_6<sup>th</sup> EDITION**

In its new edition the **BAC!** Festival (Barcelona Arte Contemporáneo) aims to maintain its initial spirit: a Festival invading the city of Barcelona with diverse and dynamic artistic suggestions, which help us approach the way of seeing contemporary art. It should be mentioned that this year's works have been selected under one common axis, violence. All artists, collaborating spaces and group exhibitions have been inspired in one way or another by the different versions of violence.

This year's **BAC!** starts with the opening of its main exhibition at the CCCB. CCCB's participation is essential, not only for being a space representing the culture and contemporary art of Barcelona, but also because its work agrees to our working line, not to mention that it is a cultural centre of international prestige. For the exhibition **BAC! 05 Code\_V** (opening on the 8<sup>th</sup> November) we have counted on the participation of artists from all over the world. Among guest artists we can highlight the international presence of Orlan, Bill Viola, Erwin Olaf, Jim Goldberg and Flavia Sigismondi, as well as the national Ouka Leele, Paco y Manolo, Pau Ros and Ricardo Iglesias. Due to last edition's fluent visits, this year's **VideoArte** section will be daily projected in a special room of the exhibition **Code\_V**. VideoArte is divided in two sections, one consisting of a selection of works that were presented for the Festival's open call for projects, the second being curated by Luca Curci, founder of The International ArtExpo Group.

In **La Santa's** premises – a space of contemporary creation and experimentation and the main base of the BAC! Festival – the big exhibition “**Shots**” will be presented, gathering the most important artist group after the CCCB show.

The **PC 177** Gallery houses a small selection of the Festival's artists. This is a quite intimate space, situated in a typical flat of the Eixample neighbourhood of Barcelona, which fulfils one of the Festival's main objectives, to establish a closer relation to the artworks.

Apart from those three places, which we consider the Festival's vertebral column, the following art spaces (galleries, art schools and studios) also contribute to the configuration of the Festival's global character and are part of our **OFF\_BAC!**: **Espacio Theredoom, Galería Antonio de Barnola, freud b' ART, Da Vinci Escola d' Art, Taller Caminal, Escuela IDEP Gran Via, Iris Galería d' Art, OFF Ample and Iguapop Gallery.**

In search of more exhibition formats and repeating the structure of last year's edition, we also count on the collaboration of magazines that have conducted specific editorial projects for the Festival, directly linked to its topic, revealing the power and the open space to creativity this sector can offer. The media that have accepted our experimental proposal are: **Actitudes magazine, Revista Mu, Monocláb, Neo2, Lô Magazine and Salir Salir Urban.**

The critical line followed by **BAC!** Festival in the previous five editions will be even stronger this year. The presented projects follow the idea of creating a dynamic dialogue between the artwork, the viewer and his/her environment.

Year after year, as well as with this 6<sup>th</sup> edition, **BAC!** has achieved to consolidate itself as one of the most important local festivals with a great impact abroad, thanks to a faithful audience and of course the initiative and creativity of the artists themselves, who form the pillars of this Festival.

Many thanks to all, who made one more year of **BAC!** possible.

## **THE OFFICIAL PICTURE OF BAC! 05**

**BAC! 05** International Festival of Contemporary Art in Barcelona presents this year's official picture:

**"LI WEI FALLS TO THE CAR"** from the Chinese artist **LI WEI**.

*"Some things are clear and true, some others are dark and unreal. In between there is a universe of dazzling, half-real things".* Born in 1970 in the province of Hubei, Li Wei is a versatile artist, photographer and performer, whose works amaze for their originality sometimes on the verge of madness. His works reflect individual vulnerability, transmitting the psychological tensions of a cruel and competitive society.

The digital intervention is at the minimum, if not nonexistent: Li Wei uses mirrors, transparent cables, scaffoldings and above all a great physical resistance that lead him to make "strange experimentations". Wei currently lives in Beijing and is considered one of the most original exponents of China's new generation of artists. He has participated in the Shanghai 2000 and the Prague 2003 biennials, the group exhibition *"Between Past and Future"* dedicated to Chinese art, presented in New York and Chicago in 2004, as well as in the last edition of the Venice Biennale.

The official picture of **BAC! 05** 6<sup>th</sup> edition has been possible thanks to the collaboration of **MARELLA GALLERY, MILANO/BEIJING**.

## a small introduction

This year, the BAC! approaches the subject of violence in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Violence as a critical object through which one can reflect upon its effects, consequences and how we react to it. There is physical violence, violence as language, image, gesture, ...

...Today we assume violence as part of our daily life. Our language is violent. We live in a world saturated by images, "image is everything", violence occupies an important space in the industries of communication and leisure. Violence sells.

Mass media control and supervise us, trust and intimacy stay only in the private sphere. The images we are presented, alienate us and want to lead us to adopt a particular life style, one option of consumption, without letting us take any critical position.

The public sphere is only a reflection of the impossibility of communication and the incapability to listen to the others...

## code\_v in cccb

by Charo Mora

Like beauty, violence is a recurrent theme in art of all times. One just needs to take a quick look at the endless images of martyrs and martyrdoms visually narrated in full detail, addressed to a medieval, Renaissance or baroque audience who was mainly illiterate. The human retina has a well-developed memory for the contemplation and interpretation of those scenes, whose protagonist tends to be a man or a woman with his/her body amputated, damaged or sullied. It is inevitable to go through the historical pictorial gallery without running into subject-matters such as San Sebastian with all the arrows going through his body, Salome carrying the head of John the Baptist in a plate or Jesus agonizing in the cross, among many possible variants. These artworks bear witness of a society in which executions were publicly exhibited and never condemned until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Nevertheless, nowadays and in most places of our planet, including the US, it is still allowed to attend these so-called final solutions. Regarding group violence, subject-matters such as the Slaughter of the Innocents or the Rape of the Sabine Women, depicted by different artists in history, highlight the metaphorical force of this very valid subject throughout centuries. Violence and its representation are part of our historical visual culture, a legacy that during the 20<sup>th</sup> century has been represented by a new medium compelled to keep the visual impact of painting, cinema movies, which have the power to

generate an illusion of reality by a distinctive means: movement. Scenes such as the indiscriminate bombing in *Apocalypse Now* to the rhythm of Wagner would have caused true ecstasy to the Romantic artist, eager to explore and broaden the limits of aesthetics to zones which Kantian aesthetics used to consider out of the frame. However, the medium that has definitively located violence in our dining rooms is TV and this has had its consequences on contemporary aesthetics, as expected.

Through this new medium, the visually and verbally violent discourse has become omnipresent, situating violence, or should we say the spectacle of violence, in an unprecedented daily routine. Violence plays a central role in contemporary world, and this is why BAC! is devoting its 6<sup>th</sup> edition to it, presenting the interpretations and reflections suggested by artists on a phenomenon apparently inherent in our own human condition. Bearing that in mind, the curators have invited artists from very different fields to communicate their views on the phenomenon in order to cover its multiple angles: verbal, psychological, gender-related, sexual, media-related or political, violence as a pretext for domination, as a consequence of the system and the human or cosmic condition or as a transforming driving force, according to the ideas of Bataille. The results range from the literal to the most sublime metaphor. Come and see.

## Artists

ALEX FERCAM  
BILL VIOLA  
BORIS HOOPEK  
boyer TRESACO  
c3h  
DIEGO GIL  
DIVA  
ERWIN OLAF  
FABRIZIO CONTARINO  
FERNANDO MOLINA  
FLORIA SIGISMONDI  
FRANCESC SABATER  
FREAKLÜB  
GIANLUCA D'APUZZO  
GUILLERMO LLOBET & GENIN ANDRADA  
HIROSHI SHIMAMURA  
HUGO ALONSO RUIZ  
HUGO JAMES BRUCE  
HUGO ORLANDINI  
ILANA & PAULA OSPINA  
IVANS  
JESUS ALONSO  
JIM GOLDBERG  
JORDI DOMINGO  
JOSÉ MORRAJA & MARISOL SIMÓ  
MR. HIERRO  
KATIA GIULIANI  
LORENA GUZMAN  
MAPI GIL  
MAUD TAYLOR  
MEOST  
MIGUEL NAVARRO  
MISS VAN  
MONSA DOMINGO  
NIENKE KLUNDER  
ORLAN  
OUKA LEELE

PACO Y MANOLO  
PAU ROS  
PEDRO TORRES  
PENÉLOPE MALDONADO & DANIELE GILARDI  
PETER KLASSEN  
PETER VOIGT  
RICARD AYMAR  
RICARDO IGLESIAS  
ROOPE ALHO  
SABRINA VOSS  
SANTIAGO GARCÉS  
SANTIAGO TACCETTI  
SILVANA SOLIVELLA  
SIXEART  
T. CHARNAN  
TXAMPA  
VERONIQUE SERFASS  
VÍCTOR CASTILLO

**Opening:** Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> of November at 20.00 on the third floor of the CCCB (Centre of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona).  
José Morraja & Marisol Simó, STAR GENERATION + IRONCAT present  
A PERFECT CRIME (audiovisual project) starting at 21.30 in the hall of CCCB.

**Duration:** 8<sup>th</sup> of November through 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2005  
Montalegre, 5 08001 Barcelona  
T. 93 306 41 00  
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays: 11 to 2 and 4 to 8  
Wednesdays and Saturdays: 11 to 8  
Sundays and bank holidays: 11 to 7

## video-art cccb

### VIDEO-ART 1

curated by GIGI R.HARRINGTON AND JUAN JOSÉ FERNÁNDEZ

AINOA TILVE & PABLO  
CARMEN BRINCONES  
DICIEMBRE AGUILAR  
GUILLERMO LLOBET & FLORENCIO ARAEZ  
HECTOR ACOSTA  
MARION LAURENT  
MIDRAMA  
RYAN RIVERA  
TAMARA ZAITSEVA

### VIDEO-ART 2

curated by LUCA CURCI

AGNESE PURGATORIO  
GEERT WACHTELAER  
GILLES DELALEX & THOMAS WESSEL-CESSIEUX  
HEIDI VOGELS  
JASON JAGELLO  
KARENINA FABRIZZI  
LUCA CURCI & FABIANA ROSCIOLI  
*MICHEL MATROTOTARO*  
ROBERT BOYD  
SARINA KHAN REDDY

Contemporary art is more and more committed to the representation of violence, investigating how the visual culture of violence has affected our society. Contemporary problems regarding domestic abuse, rape, acts of homophobia, genocide, racial violence, war crimes and executions are subject-matters that have been widely and critically analysed in art. Artists use their own experiences or are inspired by pictures and historical facts. Art might be able to give voice to those who have been ignored, silenced, as well as to unveil what is suppressed or hidden.

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## la santa + espacio theredoom

### la santa "shots"

#### ARTISTS

BERTA JAYO  
CARLOS DE TROYA  
IFAT ZVIRIN  
MARCELO HENRÍQUEZ aka HQZ  
MARTHA AMOROCHO  
MIGUEL EZPANIA  
MONTSE HERRERA  
PABLO KALAKA  
PATRICIA SOLER  
RICARDO LASPIDEA  
SALVADOR LUNA  
SILVIA ITURRIA  
SOSAKU MIYASAKI Y LOLO  
XAVI PALOUZÍE  
ZANDOVAL

### theredoom "shots"

#### ARTISTS

ÁLEX VOLTÀ  
ANNA ESTANY  
GABRIEL GRÜN  
INES BARBON  
NINO MILONE  
PAOLA SMAN ASSE  
PEDRO CUEVAS  
RAHID

**Opening:** Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> of November at 20.00.

**Duration:** 10<sup>th</sup> of November through 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2005  
Marina 65-67 08005 Barcelona  
T. 93 221 13 69  
Monday to Friday: 10 to 2 and 4 to 8.

# off bac!

## venues

### **IRIS GALERIA D`ART**

Opening: Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November at 20.00

Artists: Palito Wood and Lluïsa Simón

09.11.05 – 06.12.05

Enrique Granados, 17 08007 Barcelona

T. 93 323 47 61

Tuesday to Saturday: 4.30 to 8.

### **OFF AMPLE**

Opening: Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> November at 19.30 (Performance at 21.00)

Artist: Peter Klasen

Exhibition: "Angustia y Socorro"

10.11.05 – 22.12.05

Ptge. De la Pau, 10 08002 Barcelona

T. 93 301 11 12

Tuesday to Saturday: 4 to 8.30.

Curator: Franco de Toledo

### **IGUAPOP GALLERY**

Opening: Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> November at 20.00

Artist: Víctor Castillo

Exhibition: "Tabú y exilio"

12.11.05 – 10.12.05

Comerç, 15 08003 Barcelona

T. 93 310 07 35

Monday to Saturday: 11 to 2.30 and 5 to 9.

Monday mornings closed.

### **PC177**

Opening: Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> November at 20.30

Group show of selected artists for BAC! 2005: Sandra Aranzazú, Tamara Kuselman, Jaume Aymerich, Silvia Serriñana, Mar Vilajosana y Miguel Olivares

14.11.05 – 02.12.05

Pau Claris, 177, 5-1 08037 Barcelona

T. 687 04 73 34

### **freud b´ART**

Opening: Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> November at 20.00

Artist: Eva Michalcak

Exhibition: "Señales"

15.11.05 – 13.12.05

Baixada de Sant Miquel, 4 08002 Barcelona

T. 93 318 66 29

Monday to Saturday: 7 to 2.

### **TALLER CAMINAL**

Opening: Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> November at 20.00

Artists: Susana Ballesteros & Gustavo Mollo, Zury Asse, Elizabeth Moody, Claudine Albert.

Exhibition: "Poble Now o 22@"

18.11.05 – 02.12.05

Pallars, 172 08002 Barcelona

T. 695 11 53 30

Monday to Friday: 4 to 8.

Curator: Elizabeth Moody

**GALERÍA ANTONIO DE BARNOLA**

Opening: Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> November at 20.00

Artist: Jim Goldberg

17.11.05 – 17.12.05

Palau, 4 08002 Barcelona

T. 93 412 22 14

Tuesday to Friday: 5 to 9.

Saturday: 12 to 2 and 5 to 9.

Curator: Anna Printezi

**art schools**

**ESPAI IDEP GRAN VIA**

Opening: Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> November at 19.30

Group exhibition of Final year students in Superior Graphic Design.

Exhibition: "m\_16"

15.11.05 – 13.01.06

Gran Vía de les Corts Catalanes, 461 08015 Barcelona

T. 93 289 09 80

Monday to Friday: 10 to 9.

**DA VINCI ESCOLA D'ART**

Opening: Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> November at 20.30

Artists: Sonia Molina, Marta Ferré, Idoia Villanueva, Elisabeth Siles.

Exhibition: "Cuatro miradas sobre la violencia"

19.11.05 – 09.12.05

Cucurulla 9, 1-1 08002 Barcelona

T. 93 317 26 27

Monday to Friday: 10 to 2 and 5 to 9.

Saturday: 10 to 2.

Curator: Lola Ballbé

**magazines**

**LÔ MAGAZINE \_ boyer TRESACO**

[www.lomagazine.com](http://www.lomagazine.com)

**NEO2 \_ IPSUN PLANET**

[www.neo2.es](http://www.neo2.es)

**MONOCLÄB \_ NÚRIA RIUS**

[www.monoclab.com](http://www.monoclab.com)

**REVISTA MU \_ LAILA ESCARTÍN**

[www.revistamu.com](http://www.revistamu.com)

**SALIR SALIR \_ El Profesional del Hambre**

[www.salir.es](http://www.salir.es)

# acknowledgments

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Thanks!

## **Organised by:**

La Santa, Space of Experimentation and Contemporary Creation ([lasanta.org](http://lasanta.org))

## **Directors:**

Gigi R. Harrington & Juan José Fernández

## **Selection of works:**

Juan José Fernández, Charo Mora & Gigi R. Harrington

## **Art director:**

Juan Cardoso. Zona. ([zonacomunicacio.com](http://zonacomunicacio.com))

## **Coordinator:**

Bárbara Piffre

## **Coordinating assistants:**

Ana Bradler, Ione Hermosa & Anna Printezi

## **Selection of Videarte\_Section “Art and Violence”:**

Luca Curci

## **Catalogue:**

Juan Cardoso & Fani Pizarro

## **Web:**

Zona & Marcel F.

## **Press:**

Le Mod ([lemod.com](http://lemod.com))

