

P. Staff

Impact Play

28/04/2023 – 09/07/2023

Fixations per Minute

Exhibition series at the Fundació Joan Miró's Espai 13

9 February 2023 – 21 January 2024

A series curated by Yaby (Beatriz Ortega Botas and Alberto Vallejo)

In collaboration with the Fundación Banco Sabadell

Press Release

P. Staff explores in *Impact Play* the sensorial parameters associated with pleasure and violence

P. Staff's proposal for Fundació Joan Miró's Espai 13 presents a three-dimensional video installation based on investigating structural violence and the possibilities of a trans existence.

The project suggests reading as a channel of violence, as well as its potential for resistance with regard to the intimate and the abject. Their audiovisual piece creates a dialogue between the formal strategies of experimental cinema in the 1960s and the techniques of image diagnosis.

***Fixations per Minute* is the Espai 13 exhibition series presented by the Fundació Joan Miró for the 2023 season in collaboration with the Fundación Banco Sabadell. Curated by Yaby, a curatorial team comprising Beatriz Ortega Botas (Oviedo, 1990) and Alberto Vallejo (Zamora, 1990), the project examines the concept of reading and its relationship with current artistic practices through the works of a selection of artists from the local and international scene.**

Barcelona, 27 April 2023. Flashes of colour, words, hand-painted frames and brief shots of asses being spanked set the beat for *Impact Play*. The video installation presented by P. Staff at Espai 13 returns to several formal explorations of structural cinema, an experimental movement from the 1960s and 1970s that rejected the narrativity and illusionism of conventional filmmaking to focus on the material

substratum of the medium per se. What takes centre stage is therefore cinema's capacity to generate a sensory experience through duration, light and form.

In *Impact Play*, P. Staff establishes a parallel between some of the visual resources of these films and clinical techniques for visualising the body – magnetic resonance imaging, ultrasound, X-rays. According to the curatorial team: 'These are optically enhanced images that further medicalise the body while at the same time revealing contrasts in human texture, density and temperature that reveal the somatic as a site of integral variation.' Burns and stains of colour associated with film as a physical medium therefore appear overlaid on human skin to underscore the permeability of bodies. These visual effects are interrupted by representations of strange physiognomies that spectators can only guess at. Completing all of this is a broken poem naming various parts of the body and forms of bodily contact that speeds up until becoming impossible to read.



P. Staff. *Impact Play*, 2023. Stills.

The video's reproduction by holographic fans carries this physicality even further by projecting the images in the same three-dimensional space where the public experiences them. The project's curators highlight how 'the non-mediated effects that *Impact Play* has on bodies reflect the direct intervention that defines its own process of creation: narration and illusion as a means of discursive persuasion are replaced by crudely manipulating the material and corporeal qualities of the filmic.'

P. Staff (Bognor Regis, UK, 1987). A visual artist, performer and poet, P. Staff lives and works in Los Angeles and London. They completed their studies at Goldsmiths' College (London, 2009) and formed part of the LUX Associate Artists Programme (London, 2011).

Their work has been exhibited and performed worldwide, with solo exhibitions at Kunsthalle Basel (upcoming), Commonwealth and Council, Los Angeles (2022, 2018); LUMA, Arles (2021); Institute of Contemporary Art, Shanghai (2020); and Serpentine Galleries, London (2019); Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2019); MOCA, Los Angeles (2017), and Chisenhale Gallery, London (2015), among others. They have recently participated in group exhibitions at the 59th Venice Biennale (2022); 13th Shanghai Biennale (2021); Julia Stoschek Collection, Berlin (2021); 47 Canal, New York (2021); Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2019); Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2018), and New Museum, New York (2017). They are recipients of the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award (2019) and Paul Hamlyn Award for Visual Artists (2015), and they have participated in residences at FD13, Minneapolis (2018); LUX, London (2014); The Showroom, London (2014); Fogo Island Arts, Canada (2012), and Banff Centre, Canada (2010). Staff's work can be found in the collections of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; LUMA Arles; Museum of Modern Art, New York, and Julia Stoschek Foundation, Düsseldorf.

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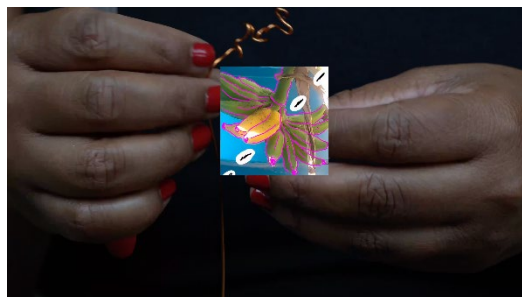
The title of the project is a reference to the formula used to calculate reading speed. A fixation occurs when your eye fixates on a word: the lower the number of fixations per minute, the higher the speed at which you process text. These fixations are the points of intimate and physiological contact through which a text enters the body. The term also points to other attributes of language relevant to this season of exhibitions, such as its ability to consolidate meanings or to impose itself just as an obsession does.

Upcoming exhibitions in the *Fixations per Minute* series

Jota Mombaça and Iki Yos Piña Narvález Funes

21/07/2023 – 22/10/2023

Their proposal for the current series at Espai 13 is a joint project stemming from Western narratives of ecology and the re-reading of colonial archives. Their exhibition is based on several ancestral techniques linked to the territory, such as ceramics and *bajareque*, as well as examining several non-alphabetical processes of meaning intersected by the geological that displace the modern concept of a book.



Kandis Williams, *Death of A*

03/11/2023 – 21/01/2024

Death of A returns to the theatrical text *Death of a Salesman* to present the black body as a focus of experience and simultaneously as a political symbol. The piece explores specific issues raised in Miller's work, such as failure, weariness and the disillusionment of the American dream. Williams incorporates into the theatrical text excerpts from cultural theorists and archival images related to the history of war and entertainment, police and media violence, extractivism and commodification.



Press images and material at <https://www.fmirobcn.org/press> and bit.ly/E13Fixacions. You can follow Espai 13's activities on social media with the hashtag #FixacionsEspai13.

In collaboration with

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