

Anna Vilarrúbias: listening as looking.

The poetics of Anna Vilarrúbias (Sabadell,1965) is held unwaveringly together by a contrast and confrontation of clearly defined chromatic planes and an ordered arrangement of form. And when speaking of the work of this artist it would be as well to invoke the precise rhetorical meaning of the term abstraction : the nominalization of an adjective which then takes the place, in a solemn relay, of the noun. Hence the disappearance of substance which in the classical – figurative – pictorial tradition would be the motif - the figurative motif. Hence the sublimation of the adjective, of all that is ancillary, initially subordinate : form, colour and two-dimensional space. This inversion of the hallmarks of classical expression follows on from the experiences of a number of artists who defended “modern art” in the 1920s (the ‘clean’ painters of Cercle et Carré, Theo van Doesburg and many others) It also follows on from that fringe of subjectivist or gestural abstraction which appeared in the late 1950s with artists such as Rothko, for instance, or our own Alfons Borrell.

Here is an interplay and a contrast of planes and forms within a spatial arrangement ruled by right angles and parallel lines yet resisted at the edges, on the borders. Similarly, here is a poetics more in keeping with music - abstraction par excellence : order, number, combination and sequence – than with much or most of Western painting. Bartok, Cage or Messiaen-Quadrany, for instance, are closer, are more in line with this painting than Cézanne or Lam – to mention two painters with a certain bearing on our present-day world. Bach. And especially Bartok, the late Bartok with his restraint rising above the work. Stopping our eyes and bending our ears. The painting of Anna Vilarrúbias requires special attention from us, a kind of inner exercise which affects our senses, our perception but - by means of an analogy that has already given us the celebrated correspondences of Baudelaire or Rimbaud – beyond sight: feeling as seeing, listening as looking.

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