# CRISTINA DE MIDDEL
# BOR—DERS
# SANTIAGO SIERRA

DISPLAY ROOM LEAFLET

SALA AMÓS SALVADOR, LOGROÑO

FROM NOVEMBER 16th OF 2019
TO FEBRUARY 9th OF 2020

## WHAT IS ON DISPLAY?

Under the title "**Borders**", we present a unique project that brings together proposals by Santiago Sierra and his project "**Black Flag**" on the one hand, and Crisitina de Middle and her "Semantic Routes" on the other.

The above-mentioned are two installations that invite us to reflect on borders, territory and national identities.

This exhibition is included in the "**Cuéntalo" (Tell it) Narratives Festival**, which this year explores, the idea of rootlessness: Stateless views of the world, nomad characters, stories removed from the earthiest part of their identity. Either willingly or by sheer need.

### EXHIBITION BY:

**SALA AMÓS SALVADOR**

Is an exhibition hall that works as a reference for those interested in Contemporary Art and year after year it offers a wide range of temporary exhibitions.

**CULTURAL RIOJA**

Culture awareness program run by La Rioja's government and Logroño's council. This joined venture results in a solid and comprehensive cultural offer.

## SANTIAGO SIERRA (MADRID 1966)

Santiago Sierra has become one of our most well known national artists worldwide. In 2003 Sierra was chosen to represent Spain in "Venice Biennale". Controversial and politically incorrect, he refused to be awarded The Plastic Arts National Award (2010).

After graduating from "Universidad Complutense de Madrid" in Fine Arts, Santiago Sierra completed his artistic education in Hamburg; however, he carried out most of his professional activity in Mexico and Italy. His starting point as an artist is much inspired by the underground artistic scene in Madrid (El Ojo Atómico, Espacio P.).

Sierra's work attempts to make the perversity of political power agendas visible (These agendas, in his view, encourage alienation and exploitation of the working class), injustice in work relations, unequal share of wealth and discrimination based on race in a world full with emigrational flows in one direction (South-North).

## BLACK FLAG

Santiago Sierra is showing, for the first time in Spain, one of is most ambitious ventures. It takes the shape of a photo and sound installation, which documents the process of planting the universal symbol of anarchism, the black flag (bandera negra), in the very extremes of earth: Poles North and South.

"*Entering a country is like going into jail. Borders upset me, both as a concept and as a personal experience. This work renounces all this. Planting a national flag in some unexplored land is not such an innocent a gesture. This is precisely the way most colonial processes begin.*"

**Santiago Sierra**

Sierra turns the black flag in a symbol of denial of the rest of flags and a gesture for the sake of freedom. An attempt to "squat" the whole world with a piece of art.

"I have always enjoyed "**The Pedestal of the World**" (by Piero Manzoni) in which the whole world was contained within this piece of art."

**Santiago Sierra**

Manzoni created a pedestal on which the whole world supposedly rested, turning the whole world in a piece of art.

In the case of the photograph taken in the North Pole, the final layout of the image (a black square against a white background) resembles Malevich's "Black square on a white background". This resemblance positions Santiago Sierra's work near the "Suprematism" movement, which used more abstract shapes and basic geometrical forms like the square above mention.

## CRISTINA DE MIDDEL (ALICANTE 1975)

Crisitina de Middel outstands by creating a story with her images. The way in which she rethinks the reality of photographic language in her projects, in such and "artistic" manner, has gained her several national and international awards, among them The National Photography Award in 2017, this year she was also nominated to enrol in the prestigious agency **Magnum**.

In 2019, she became the second Spanish photographer; Cristina García was the first, associated with the famous agency.

She studied photojournalism at "Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona". Afterwards she completed a Master's degree on Photography at Oklahoma University and another one on Fine Arts at "Universidad Politécnica de Valencia".

She has worked as a photojournalist for different Spanish newspapers and several charities before devoting herself to a more artistic and personal work. She is currently living and working between Brazil, Mexico and Spain.

## SEMANTIC ROUTES

"**Rutas Semánticas**" (Semantic Routes) is one of the most personal works by Cristina de Middel: She shows a set of photos in which she links the name of towns, laid out as different routes according to their meaning. She uses humour and even absurdity to show Spain's reality.

"*When borders are highlighted is time to ask oneself what they contain, what is so valuable and unique to not allow "blending". Within the different and biased definitions of concepts such as nation, country or homeland there is definitely a big deal of juggling whit concepts that go beyond geography or territory and which call on our emotions, our pride, our memories and even our concept of honour. The national entity, has always been a terrifyingly efficient political argument, a wild card which implies a very high price to pay*".

**Cristina de Middel**

## WHAT ELSE DOES THE EXHIBITION HAVE TO OFFER?

A variety of activities and workshops are provided throughout the exhibition period at its premises. Limited places.

For further information, please ask staff.

### GUIDED VISITS

On Saturdays at 12:30 pm, there is also an educational tour to the exhibition aimed at the general public. For this particular activity, signing up in advance is not necessary.

For more information about exhibitions and activities you can write us to:

salaamossalvador@logro-o.org

Sala Amós Salvador

@salaamossalvador