

WHERE DO BIRDS DIE

David Escalona / Chantal Maillard

From 6th June to 31st July 2014

Where do Birds Die is a project that has come out of the dialogue kept between David Escalona and Chantal Maillard over time; a meeting with plenty of small events where the bounds between both artists and their respective creative supports do not separate. Who started? What belongs to each one? Until when? It is not about illustrating a poem, or interpreting a plastic work with words, but breaking away from the usual boundaries and promoting a sphere, either physical or mental, crossed by multiplicities, confluences, echoes or resonances, which leads to reflection. It is important to demonstrate the coexistence of different artistic disciplines throughout history and that, however, they are usually taken separately, in isolated sections. Strictly speaking, this project cannot be described as *inter-disciplinary* or *inter-personal*, but prefix *trans* would be more accurate, because it goes a step beyond the exchange based on two different complementary parts, the limitations imposed or self-imposed to create a scene without hierarchies.

The works included in this project are just residual traces of a meeting favoured through metaphor; traces that are the witness creators offer to the viewer to accomplish their needs, expectations or desires; so they can find an answer or raise new questions.

On the other hand, with the concern of lending or amplifying the voice of the silenced ones, of all those forgotten victims on the sidelines of history, yet unavoidable. They may have left the latent pathos on the faults of History, accidents already warned by thinkers such as Aby Warburg or Nietzsche, *seismographs* that would end up going crazy. Chantal and David have been knocked over by that trans-historical pathos to make new reinterpretations, to show an iota of that unrepresentable spectral reality that is part of our everyday lives, a wound that is common; a wound that is the same for all of us, fruit of tensions and conflicts, of excessive human violence. *What injury is not a war wound and that not come from the whole society* was written by Bousquet, the poet-soldier, who wrote it from bed where he spent his life after being hit by a bullet on the battlefield during the First World War.

Where do Birds Die is a strange place, it is the no man's land where, through poetry, drawing, sculpture and the premises, Chantal Maillard and David Escalona invite to reflect, from the compassion, about the History of Mankind: the history of a perpetual crime.

David Escalona (Málaga, 1981), a graduate in Fine Arts. He is working to get his PhD in UGR at the moment. He has been given many awards, scholarships and support, and he has got solo and collective shows in commercial spaces and prestigious institutions. Its exhibitions and projects have been collected prominently in relevant media. He has appeared in Especial ARCO del ABCD las Letras y las Artes' front cover on the occasion of his selection for the individual stand of Fundación ONCE, due to his debut at the edition of the fair 2012. He also starred in one of the interviews on the two central pages of that same cultural supplement, whose content director considers him as one of the most powerful voices of the Spanish plastic art.

Chantal Maillard (Brussels, 1951), is a doctor in Philosophy, specialist in Indian Philosophy and Religion from the Banaras Hindu University (Varanasi). Until 2000 she was teaching at the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Malaga, where she promoted the study of Philosophy and Comparative Aesthetics. Since 1998 she has worked as a critic on the Cultural Supplements of ABC and El País newspapers. She has written several poem books, essays and diaries. In 2004 she was awarded the National Poetry Prize for her book *Matar a Platón* and in 2008 the National Critics Prize and the Andalusia Critics Prize for *Hilos*. Her diaries are the choice for writing on multiple registers that turns one's own consciousness into subject of reflection.