Kadie- Can Serrat

1st-21st May 2018

The histories, stories, architecture and landscapes belonging to rural communities are often the source material for my site-responsive practice. It is the romanticism associated with these isolated locations that I am drawn to; a relationship cemented through its depiction in art, literature, film and social media. However, it is the desire to experience and reconstruct this past romanticism that I am most interested in. Through this process of reconstruction and new contemporary placement, the original language is obscured; instead becoming an exploration of the act itself, where nostalgic fantasies become symbols of fragile ideals.

At dusk, each night, for 3 weeks I lay on a lounger in the rambling garden of Can Serrat. Staring up at a clear sky, I waited alone whilst desperately trying to absorb the energy of the hidden moon: an act called moon bathing. The strong depiction of female sensuality and hysteria in relation to nocturnal nature in art, literature, cinema and history became the core of my research during my short residency in May 2018. This performative act was captured through long exposure digital and analogue photography; eary, stark images document a re-enacted fantasy directed by desire and the unexpected happenings of the surroundings itself.

Staying at Can Serrat, I couldn’t avoid being affected in some way by the majesty and weight of Montserrat which stands beautifully solid; an anchor that gives sensations of both stability and vulnerability. Over the last decade I have been exploring the use of photography as a sculptural medium; forcing and/or manipulating the 2D image into a 3D object to expose the fragility of both the photograph’s physical state and its subjective content. Traditional questions of material, balance, space and illusion found their way back to my own sculptural enquiries.

Having returned to London only 5 days ago, I am already planning my future return to those mountains. But until then I will be kept busy with the large pool of research I generated during my stay; a collection of drawings, hand coloured photographs, 10 spools of medium format film, hundreds of digital images, maquettes and sculptural models, writing and self-reflective questions. With this body of material I plan to create a new video work, series of photo-sculptures and hand-coloured images which will piece together in an exhibition format; a non-linear narrative that offers no clear beginning or end but gives an insight into my experiences and time at Can Serrat.