

Checkpoint\_ 07.20.18

Julia DePinto

Brooklyn, NY, USA

Can Serrat Resident: 06.01-06.21.18

Visual Art: Drawing, Printmaking & Photography

Project Outline:

While in residency at Can Serrat, I began two bodies of work. I was immediately drawn to the political climate of El Bruc and Barcelona, and was inspired by the flags, protests and political divide happening in the Catalan region of Spain. I spent the first two weeks of my residency studying the politics, attending protests in Barcelona (pro-separatists movement), interviewing contemporary female Catalan artists, and creating a documentary photo-series. The digital photographs document different elements of protests as they were happening in real time.

The third/ final week of the residency, I began a series of drawings and prints that respond to American politics and my experiences living in the US under a Trump presidency. The drawings and prints are visceral responses to a personal fear of living in a country with a dismantling democracy, and further explain a fear of dictatorship and an authoritarian government. The work is still in- process and has become part of a larger project. As the project and work evolve, I have continued to study international politics, global protests, and also hope to connect/ collaborate with political and contemporary female artists around the world.

Biography:

Julia DePinto is a visual artist with a background in drawing and printmaking. She received an MFA from the University of Connecticut and a BFA from Wright State University. Her interdisciplinary practice explores the discourse of contemporary self-portraiture through concept, process, digital and print-based media. Her work has been shown internationally in solo and group exhibitions including, the Douro Museum (Douro, Portugal), Deiglan Gallery (Akureyri, Iceland), Czong Institute for Contemporary Art (Gimpo, Korea), Boston University, and the Los Angeles Center for Digital Art. Julia is the recipient of many grants and awards, and has attended residencies at Vermont Studio Center, the Gilfélag Institute (Akureyri, Iceland), Fish Factory Creative Centre (Stöðvarfjörður, Iceland), and Can Serrat International Art Residency (El Bruc, Catalonia, Spain). Her work has been featured in online journals and printed magazines, and is also held in private and public collections nation-wide. Julia lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

## Interview Questions for Female Catalan Artists:

- + What medium do you work in? Explain your studio practice, influences, etc.
- + How do you identify within your community (racially, demographically, sexually, etc.)? Has your identity influenced your art & studio practice?
- + Who is your audience?
- + In what context is your art supposed to be viewed?
- + What is the expected role of women in Spain?
- + What is the expected role of female artists in Spain?
  
- + Thoughts on the Catalan Separatists movement:
  - Do you believe a secession is better for the country as a whole? Better for the Catalan community and for the betterment of Spain? Is the Catalan identity lost?
  - Justified in their nationalistic approach? Are they anti-immigration? (Parallels to US regulations on immigration & far-right Nationalism | populism)
  
- + Santiago Sierra's work was censored at ARCO-Madrid Art Fair. Ifema (the fair's state owned operator) said in a statement that Sierra's work was "damaging the visibility of other artworks and that removing the artworks would take away a discourse that diverts attention from the whole of the fair."
  - What are your feelings on censorship? Is it ever appropriate to censor art?
  - Is it the job of the artist to make work that is or is not evocative, controversial, or political?
  - Sierra's work featured pixelated photos of 24 people, including the separatist politicians, referring to them as "political prisoners." The Spanish government said in an interview, "in Spain there are no political prisoners." Thoughts on this statement?
  
- + Thoughts on the Political Prisoners, world demand for immediate release, and American contemporary artists:
  - More than 100 academics from 19 countries signed a letter demanding the release of the Catalan political prisoners and for EU intervention in the situation. If Catalonia was it's own state it may not have the support of the EU, but does it now?
  - One of the Catalan "political prisoners" is female. What are your thoughts?
  - Has the Catalan separatists movement affected your studio practice? How has it affected you as a female & female artist?
  - What do you know about American politics? What is the Catalan general consensus of American democracy & government?



El Bruc, 2018.





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