

## Synopsis

Montanha Gelada (Climate Machine) *is an installation that takes thermal dynamics as a work material. It is an attempt to enact a mechanical understanding of natural dynamics, investigating it from the material problems that this conception produces. The first stage consists in the design and construction of a topographic object, an iced landscape that will form from the water condensation and freezing on grids recovered from discarded freezers. A second moment deals with the energy supply of this landscape, seeking to give it a certain autonomy as object-mechanism. Two other elements, a diesel generator and a greenhouse with purifying properties will be coupled to the frozen landscape. This concrete design of the Mountain is a direction for a material research, starting from practical problems to put a conception of the nature in play. In this sense the iconographic research will be guided by two axes, on the one hand this idea of nature-mechanism and the way in which it was historically represented, on the other, simple constructive forms and recovered building materials.*

This was the starting point for my work in Can Serrat. The landscape was built from a recovered freezer found in a local junkyard, which was fairly easy to disassemble. It was mounted in an abandoned caravan in the residency grounds, inside a compartment built for this purpose and made visible through a small hole. The mechanism was feeding of itself as planned, although there was an external input of temperature from the caravan being in the sun, making the accumulation of ice happen in a slow cycle of freezing / defreezing.

Parallel to this I was researching on Montserrat mountain, its water cycles, the caves they form, the ways found by local authorities to capture and distribute this water, mostly an iconographic research at the library and photographic archive in El Bruc, the archive in Igualada and the library at the Monserrat Monastery.

## Loose ends

The monks at the Monserrat Monastery were the first speleologists to record their explorations of the mountain's caves. The sound of underground water flow made that was audible in some of the pits made for the belief in one large underground river inside a hollow mountain. Registering a descent into some of these pits, as well as the underground soundscape would be a path that could mark a follow up of the project.

As for the work on the installation, I would explore on ways to make the temperature in both compartments accessible, the one with the engine and the one with the grids, and perhaps also furthering the manipulation of the grids so to have a close representation of the mountain of Montserrat.



