

MATEO MATÉ

“FROM THE WINDOW_9”



WHAT IS CONFINEMENT FOR YOU?

When you ask me how to work and live in confinement, I have to admit that the very idea of the analysis of closeness and the enclosure of oneself in one's own space, be it real or metaphorical, has been the foundation of my work for more than 20 years. These months have been very fruitful and as several exhibitions have been postponed I have had time to take up and finish projects that I was putting aside and that I found very interesting. I would like to mention as a special and magical experience to be able to make a story for children for the Vegueta publishing house in Barcelona on the occasion of the confinement on "Journeys without leaving home". In the end, it's just one more work from my series, but I wouldn't have allowed myself to do it in the contemporary maelstrom of activities in which we artists are immersed. He'll show up after the summer.

WHAT COLOR DO YOU ASSOCIATE THE FUTURE WITH?

I attach as a text about my experience in confinement a text I wrote 20 years ago about the attitude my work would take from then on. A kind of declaration of intent that now seems totally contemporary. Two decades ago we were already living the prolegomena of what has now hatched or precipitated with the pandemic that we are experiencing.

We live in the world of mobility, of ease of travel. Seduction hooks for escape from oneself. But... why run away, why travel, if the monotony is of myself, it always goes with me. If I don't find freedom inside me, I won't find it anywhere. My first wish was to escape from the monotony, from what I know, from what is mine, from what I want. But when I arrived in paradisiacal countries, bucolic landscapes in the imagination of the monotony of my daily life, I only found others who wanted to escape to my monotonous origin.

If we consider that we have nothing beyond our sensations; it is these that we must explore as if they were unknown places. Without maps and guides we only have the routes that we mark for ourselves. "No matter how high we climb and how low we descend, we never leave our sensations."

We never left ourselves. There is only one landscape; the one we draw for ourselves with our senses. In Eastern cultures the wise man develops a contemplative spirit with which he does not need to leave his hut to know the whole universe. In the re-reading of a book can be all the books. A piece of music can contain all kinds of music.

I travel to know my geography is a project in progress in which I reflect on individual existence from a series of elements that make up my domestic environment. A toy car, with a camera on its back, runs through my intimate universe, magnifying it in turn on a screen. A self-portrait through my everyday objects. A work through which a feeling of melancholy passes, caused by the absence of that which has already taken place. "If we consider that we have nothing beyond our sensations, it is these that we must explore as if they were unknown places.

The sociologist Michel de Certeau describes in *The Invention of the Everyday*: "The everyday is invented with a thousand ways of poaching". Daily creativity against the power struggles exercised

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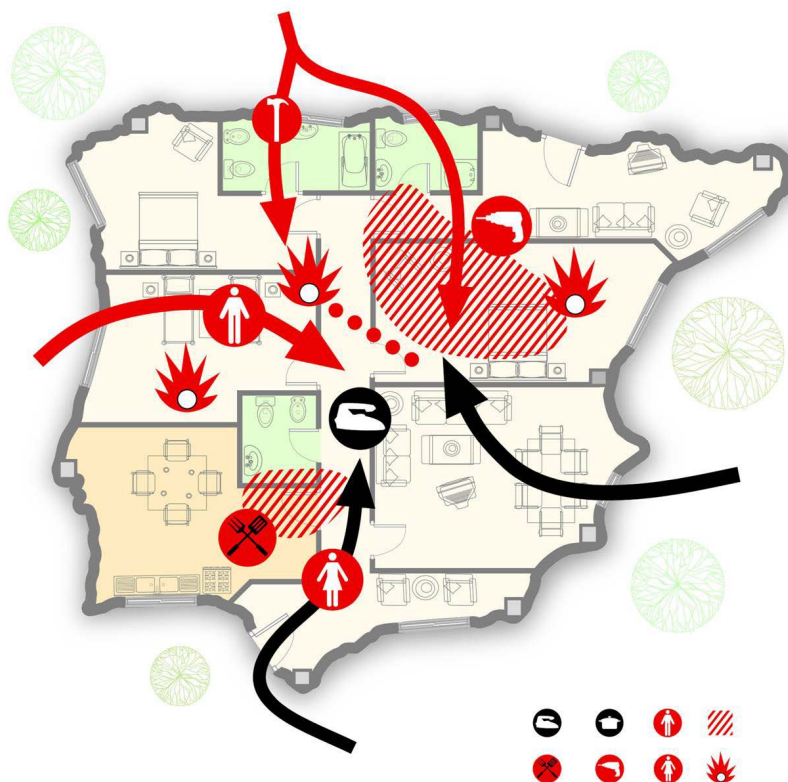


in our most familiar environment.

Mateo Maté, 2001.

WHAT IMAGE DOES CONFINEMENT SUGGEST TO YOU?

I also attach an image of the series Domestic Nationalism of 2005. An image of a common home always with conflicts, areas of influence and open fronts.



“Actos heroicos” 2005

Drawing print on photographic paper, 140 x 140 cm