

ANTONI ABAD

LLEIDA, 1956

From a family of artists, **ANTONI ABAD (Lleida, 1956)** graduated in Art History from the University of Barcelona in 1979. During the 1980s and early 1990s he made moving sculptures of industrial materials (such as foam or Mecalux) that, accompanied by photographic sequences, reflected on the dynamism of the forms and the infinite combinations that derive from them. This also raises the artist's interest in measurement systems.

From his time as an artist-resident at The Banff Centre for the Arts (Alberta, Canada), between 1993 and 1994, he began working with video projections that expand into the architectural space. From this period are works such as Last Wishes (1995) or his trilogy of rats: Errata (1996), Natural Ci'ncies (1997) and Love Story (1998).

In 1996 Roc Parés invited him to participate in the platform "MACBA online" and Abad presented Sisyphus, a video installation that was then unfolded in an exclusive version for the web. In 1997 he finished his studies at the European Media Master of the Pompeu Fabra University of Barcelona and from then on he focused his creative activity on the digital medium making pieces such as 1,000,000 (1999) or Z (2001-03), which anticipate the use of social networks.

From 2004, until today, Abad experiments with the possibilities of mobile technology, articulating audiovisual media networks, through which it is intended to give voice to groups usually ignored or discriminated against by the official media.

In May 2017, Antoni Abad presented "La Venezia che non si vede" the project that represented Catalonia at the Venice Biennale 2017 and which shows thanks to the BlindWiki app, what Venice is like from the sound from the comments of blind citizens or with low vision, creating a sensory public cartography of the city. The project, curated by Mery Cuesta and Roc Parés, follows the line of Megafone or Blindwiki, audiovisual communication projects on the Internet, initiated in 2004 using mobile phones, which stimulate the creation of new channels of collaborative communication between people and groups at risk of exclusion - immigrants, refugees, prostitutes or people with reduced mobility - from all over the world and who have earned it prizes such as the Golden Nica 2006 of The Electronics, maximum recognition worldwide in terms of art and New technologies, the Premi Ciutat de Barcelona 2002 or the Premi Nacional Arts Visuals Generalitat de Catalunya 2006.

His projects have been presented, among others, in Espacio Uno / MNCARS, Madrid (1997); Museum of Modern Art of Buenos Aires (1999); 2 Ibero-American Biennial of Lima (1999); New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York (2001); Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2002), P.S.1, New York (2003); MACBA (1996, 2003 and 2014) and on its website: megafone.net.