

MIRALDA I MUNTADAS

“M&M”

28 DEC 2019/ 31 MAY 2020

Bacus & Apol·lo. Art is a passion and wine is a passion.

So equal and so different, or vice versa. They're M&M, AM&AM and both are named Antoni. Quite often they are called one for the other. Both have the prestigious Velázquez Prize, the highest recognition for a Spanish artist. They can look like Siamese twins, but in truth, is just the opposite: their work is completely different, as is their image or the way they work.

Chance --or luck-- brought them together in New York in 1972. Muntadas, then focused on sensory experiences, had been living in the United States for some time. Miralda, who had already established a significant career in Paris, was invited to do an exhibit at a Chicago gallery. In his way back he landed in Manhattan, where he stumbled on a panel in Pearl Paint, the Canal Street art supply store, where Muntadas had just put an ad for someone to share his studio: a loft. At the time, SoHo just meant South Houston, Tribeca still had no name and a “loft” was nothing more than a ramshackle old warehouse. As in the movies, it was the beginning of a great friendship. Miralda and Muntadas, or Muntadas and Miralda, form a strange couple. One is colour; the other black and white. One is the sociologist apprentice with the conceptualist sobriety of the pioneers of video art; the other is the would-be anthropologist, the Baroque artist who immerses himself in popular culture. From the first moment there is a very powerful exchange between them and the space they shared defined it. One day they cook 250 kilos of rice and colour it in a way that each strip of the spectrum corresponded to a taste; from pink to blue and green passing through yellow and bright red. The action was named Sangria 228 West B'Way, after the address of the studio and the two large containers filled with sangria. The next morning, they jumped into the street, occupy the asphalt and scattered the remains of the banquet. Colours and textures where transformed as traffic passed over.

This was the first and last action they made together, even though they have maintained a close friendship throughout their lives; shared spaces, friends, galleries, adventures and, above all, confidences, information, advice, help, ideas... Now, 47 years later, for the second time in their lives these two artists do it again at a joint exhibition for the 30th anniversary of the Palmadotze gallery. And, again, is about wine.

J. M. Martí Font

Thanks: Ajuntament de Santa Margarida i els Monjos, Jaume Gramona, Carla Rodríguez Casellas, Rosend Font, Nan Mercader, Carla Mercader, Max Mercader, Cesc Pascual, Greys Hernández, Miquel Roldan, Marc Terrats, Carles Vila, Joan Cortés, Teresa Mulet, Andrea Nacach, Laureà Rigol, Josep Giralt i Mykola Sosnovchuk.