Minus Ego is an exhibition addressing universal and timeless questions of “ego”, focusing on the challenging aspects of its reduction as well as on a search for the contemplative essence.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS
Thilo Droste
Christoph Schwarz
Jordi Tolosa
Toni Serra *) Abu Ali
Jakob & Manila Bartnik
Kimsooja
Susanne Bosch
Michael Wesely
Antoni Tàpies

Goethe-Institut Barcelona
Roger de Flor 224
08025 Barcelona
info@barcelona-goethe.org
www.goethe.de/barcelona
Mon–Fri 9–21h, Sat 10–14h

CURATED BY
Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio

WITH THE SUPPORT OF
Universitat Pompeu Fabra.

GRAPHIC DESIGN BY
Proxi.me

Thilo Droste, Self Portrait, 2013

Susanne Bosch, Prevision I, 2015


Antoni Tàpies, Reflection Room, 1996

* Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Edifici Jaume I. Carrer Ramon Trias Fargas, 25–27 – 08005 Barcelona. Opening visit: Friday October 7th at 7pm. The space is open and free for the public every Wednesday for the entire run of the ‘Minus Ego’ exhibition, from 7pm to 8pm.

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The interactive work I DO, developed by Jakob and Manila Bartnik, is focused on the idea of "renouncing". Asking people to engage in a "not doing experience", it opens a different space – in terms of thinking and acting – that we are not used to anymore. The I DO experience deviates the normal daily course of life through the paradoxical application of limitations and restrictions. The project consists in several steps, including a final meeting where the participants share their own personal experience of renunciation.

In the video Prevision I, by Susanne Bosch, a naked body faces an empty theatre. The almost static image becomes a metaphor of the visible, the material surface towards the imperceptible self, the essence, mind consciousness. What is behind our mirror image?

Toni Serra (*A) Abu Ali’s Sotsongs is a video deriving from a conversation recorded in the 70s in Mumbai (India), between a Western traveller and the Indian philosopher Sri Nissargadatta Maharaj, author of “I am That”, one of the most recent and significant exemplars of Adwaita Vedanta. The centrality of consciousness surrounded by maya (illusion), the abandonment of personal identity, the possibility of renunciation and vanishing and the identification with the body as an impediment to self-realisation are some of the main concepts emerging from the video.

The Reflection Room, a secular chapel conceived by Antoni Wesely for Pompeu Fabra University, is a 500m² space dedicated to silence and contemplation. As expressed by the artist: "Given the excessive turmoil, mental distraction and the innumerable cuts to "False realities" to which we are subjected in today’s societies, I saw an excellent opportunity to contribute to creating an area and some images that help with meditation, concentration and, in short, a better understanding of our true being. A silent space that is certainly appropriate for deepening a reflection on the concept of 'Minus Ego' and the related ideas of renunciation, disappearing and sharing."

In Kimsooja’s An Album: Hawaiiana, we contemplate a silent passage, a visual reflection on how life and bodies will – sooner or later – become dust and light. The video and the prints speak of disappearance; they suggest a poetic representation of our passage from the tangible to the intangible, from the figurative to the abstract, and remind us of our quick passage on this planet.

In the exhibition Minus Ego, we confront several more or less extreme examples of self-identification, and the different aspects of this phenomenon in contemporary art. A journey that questions the ego’s role in the society and our world, this exhibition explores the ways in which the ego is both a protective shield and an obstacle. It is an invitation to reflect on the role of the ego in contemporary society and to question our own relationship with it.

In 2015 as part of the Collaborative Arts Partnership Programme. In 2014 they founded the Bartnik Project – an offshoot of the online platform Panorama – with the vision to provide a platform for artists to engage with audiences in new ways. The Bartnik Project has hosted exhibitions and projects around the world, and has become a leading voice in promoting the work of contemporary artists and curators.

In her artistic research and as facilitator she works with formats such as writing, holding seminars, workshops, and, as a result, their performances always call for a moment of confrontation and dialogue with the audience. Their shared interest in the performative potential of art, and the way in which art can be used to explore and challenge social structures, has allowed them to develop a unique approach to their work.

In her creative exploration of non-local space and time, Susanne Bosch explores the potential of art to create alternative realities. Her work often involves the use of light, sound, and movement to create immersive environments that encourage viewers to question their own perceptions of reality. Bosch has exhibited internationally, and her work has been featured in numerous publications and exhibitions.

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