

MAX ESTRELLA



***GHOSTS***

**EUGENIO AMPUDIA | LAURIE ANDERSON | SUSAN HILLER |**

**ABELARDO MORELL | BILL VIOLA**

**Curator: KATHLEEN FORDE**

“Our lives are haunted by ghosts, our own personal ghosts  
and the collective ghosts of our society”  
Susan Hiller

Galería Max Estrella is pleased to present *Ghosts*, a group show organized by American curator Kathleen Forde.

Artists include Laurie Anderson (Illinois, 1947), Susan Hiller (Florida, 1940), Bill Viola (New York, 1951) Abelardo Morell (Havana, Cuba, 1948) and Eugenio Ampudia (Valladolid, 1958).

The exhibition is rooted in work that relates to Jacques Derrida’s idea of the trace, or the mark left by an absent thing. In Derrida’s concept, every present bears the trace or the sign of absence, which defines it.

In this exhibition, all of the artworks explore the powerful nature of the absence of presence and the force and influence of memory. Laurie Anderson’s *From the Air* is a miniature, quasi-holographic projection of the artist herself and her dog Lolabelle, in which she uses her poignant storytelling to narrate the day a flock of flying turkey vultures swooped down upon her dog, awaking the creature’s fear of a new environment, unknown until now by it: the air. This domestic anecdote is compared with the state of conscience of her New Yorker neighbors after 9/11, when the residents, just like Lolabelle, realized that danger could also come from the air. Fear turns into a ghost that lurks at us and, as Anderson states, a door we passed through to never come back from.

In Susan Hiller’s small photographs from her *Spectral Works* series, the camera substitutes for the specialized vision of psychics; glowing auras, absences and ghosts. Abelardo Morell’s camera obscura images allow the external environment to inhabit various interior spaces. *Shaman* is a video installation by Eugenio Ampudia in which he projects footage of the artist Joseph Beuys onto a fine spray of mist that serves as a projection screen. The German artist that radically changed the conception of artistic education rises and exerts his enormous influence over contemporary creation.

Bill Viola continues his impressive investigation of perception, memory and the unfolding of consciousness. In Viola's hypnotic *Ancestors*, two beings emerge from El Mirage, an immense dry lake in the Mojave Desert, and as they advance towards us, they discover the presence of each other. In *Transfiguration*, a young man pierces through a water curtain so clear and transparent it is almost invisible. Viola, who is progressively resorting towards simple and direct narrations with great technical complexity, addresses in this work the transition between physical and metaphysical.

**Laurie Anderson** (Illinois, 1947) lives and works in New York. Anderson is one of the most recognized American artists of our time, always renovating in the field of art and technology. Among the highlights of her recent solo and collective shows are: *FORTY*, MoMA PS1, New York (2016); *This is a voice*, Wellcome Collection, London (2016); *Habeas Corpus* at Park Avenue Armory, New York (2015); *Forty-nine Days in the Bardo*, The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia (2011); *I in U (Eu em Tu)*, Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, São Paulo (2011); *Making Music*, MoMA, New York (2008).

**Susan Hiller** (Florida, 1940) lives and works in London. Since the 80s, she has focused on the area of multimedia and is now among the most renowned artists of her generation. Recently, her works have taken part in solo and collective exhibitions, such as: *Aspects of the Self 1972-1985*, MOT International, Brussels (2016); *Susan Hiller: The Last Silent Movie*, FRAC, Franche-Comté, Besancon (2016); *Conceptual Art in Britain 1964-1972*, Tate Britain, London (2016); *Sublime: Tremblements du Monde*, Pompidou, Metz (2016); *Resounding (Infrared)*, Summerhall, The Edinburgh Art Festival, Edinburgh (2014).

**Bill Viola** (New York, 1951) lives and works in Long Beach. Leading figure in the establishment of videoart as art form of our present day, his works are part of the most prestigious public and private collections. Among his noteworthy recent shows are *The Talking Drum*, The Vinyl Factory Space at Brewer Street Car Park, London (2015); *Four works for St. Peter's Chapel*, Auckland Castle, Bishop Auckland (2015); *Mary*, St. Paul's Cathedral, London (2015); *Bill Viola: Transformation*, Faurschou Foundation, Beijing (2015); *Bill Viola: Passions*, Kunstmuseum Bern and at the Cathedral of Bern, Berne (2014).

**Eugenio Ampudia** (Valladolid, 1958) lives and works in Madrid. He is one of today's most well known Spanish artists. In 2008, his multidisciplinary work received The Delfina Foundation residency as well as the ARCO's Critics Award for Best Spanish Artist. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Desbandada*, CAB, Burgos (2016); *Dzzzzdzzzdzz*, Centro Cultural de España, México DF (2016); *El futuro no es de nadie todavía*, Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil de México DF, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Oaxaca y Centro de las Artes de Monterrey (2015-2016); *Una corriente de aire*, MAC Gas Natural Fenosa, La Coruña (2015).

**Abelardo Morell** (Havana, Cuba,1948) is a Boston-based photographer renowned for his images that use the language of photography to explore visual surprise and wonder, including images in which he turns rooms into a giant camera obscura, projecting exterior views onto interior spaces Morell came to the United States as a teenager in 1962 and later studied photography, earning an MFA from Yale University. His work has been collected and shown in many institutions including the Museum of Modern Art, The Whitney Museum of American Art, the Metropolitan Art Museum in New York, The Chicago Art Institute, The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The Houston Museum of Art, The Boston Museum of Fine Art, The Victoria & Albert Museum and over seventy other museums in the United States and abroad.

About the curator:

**Kathleen Forde** is the Artistic Director for Borusan Contemporary, Istanbul. Concurrently she is working as an independent curator in New York with various institutions both nationally and abroad. Forde has recently curated numerous solo exhibitions by artists such as Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, Daniel Canogar, and John Gerrard, and collaborated with curators and institutions that include the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Espacio Telefonica Madrid, La Boral Gijon and the Kunsthalle Darmstadt. Previously, Forde was the Curator of Time-Based Visual Arts at the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) in Troy, NY. Prior to EMPAC, Forde was the Curatorial Director for Live Arts and New Media at the Goethe Institut Internaciones in Berlin and Assistant Curator for Media Arts at SFMOMA.

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## **GHOSTS**

**GALERÍA MAX ESTRELLA.** Santo Tomé, 6 (patio). Madrid

From September 15<sup>th</sup> to November 8<sup>th</sup>

Monday-Friday 10 am-2pm & 4.30 pm-8.30 pm / Saturdays 11 am-2 pm

Opening: Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 8pm