

Mat Collishaw. *The End of Innocence*
Fundació Sorigué
September 2019 – April 2020

A reflection on humanity's relationship with nature and the use of image, by Fundació Sorigué

A thought provoking new exhibition by artist Mat Collishaw comes to Lleida

- **Fundació Sorigué continues its work of presenting contemporary art with a new exhibition in Lleida: Mat Collishaw's *The End of Innocence*.**
- **This the first time Collishaw's work has come to Catalonia. The exhibition follows the artist's first solo exhibition in Spain at the Royal Botanical Garden, Madrid, which received more than 30,000 visitors.**
- **The exhibition features new developments with respect to its former incarnation in Madrid. Comprising sculpture, photography, video, painting and installation, it will testify to the depth and breadth of Collishaw's practice.**
- **It invites the public to reflect on matters focused on the present, highlighting the need for sustainable development, respect for the environment and responsible use of new technologies.**
- **The foundation's Educational Area has designed a program intended for various levels of educational ability, from ages 6 and up.**
- **The PLANTA project is expanding its offer in October, adding a new circuit that includes installations by Juan Muñoz, Bill Viola and Anselm Kiefer.**

Lleida, September 19 – As part of its mission to bring contemporary art to all audiences, Fundació Sorigué's headquarters in Lleida will host a thought provoking new exhibition by British artist Mat Collishaw.

Mat Collishaw. *The End of Innocence*, which opens its doors to the public from Friday, September 20 through Sunday, April 26, 2020; offers a comprehensive view of the artist's unsettling and captivating work. The exhibition comprises sculpture, photography, video, painting and installation, and includes *The End of Innocence* (2009), an iconic work from the Sorigué collection from which the exhibition gets its name.

Visitors have the chance to view key works from across the last twenty years of Collishaw's career. Through the works exhibited, visitors are encouraged to reflect upon humanity's relationship with nature in the digital age.

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Ana Vallés, the Chairwoman of Sorigué and director of Fundació Sorigué, notes that "we are very pleased with the great reception from the public in Madrid, and we wanted to give our closest audience the chance to enjoy the work of this great artist, who has a very close and direct relationship with our vision and concerns. Through Collishaw's art we encourage you to reflect on the major issues currently faced by society."

This new exhibition comes in addition to PLANTA's forthcoming expansion. The coming season will see the innovative project promoted by the Sorigué group and Fundació Sorigué incorporate two new spaces into its circuit. PLANTA's first permanent installation, *Ocean Without a Shore* by the artist Bill Viola, and the Kiefer Pavilion, which will host three large-format paintings by renowned German artist Anselm Kiefer. These two new additions expand upon the visitor experience at PLANTA, which opened its doors to the public in October 2017 with the monumental installation by Juan Muñoz, *Double Bind*.

About Mat Collishaw's *The End of Innocence*

Mat Collishaw has never shied away from difficult or challenging subject matter; ideas that deal with death, destruction and decay become hypnotic and compelling. **Often creating a dialogue with past masters to explore humanity's dark side, Collishaw's** seemingly simple, but actually complex works are often based on references from myth and art history, turning them into metaphors for contemporary society. The exhibition highlights these relationships, while reflecting on image manipulation, the transience of life and instability of the planet's ecology.

One of the exhibition's highlights is *Retrospectre* (2010), a homage to Armenian film director Sergei Parajanov. As with the director's films, the work focuses on visual experience of watching ritualistic events. A collage of images including; birds of prey, burning water, smoke, frightened horses and slaughtered animals evoke the elemental forces that appear in Parajanov's films.

The Centrifugal Soul, (2016) is a sculpture in the form of a zoetrope, a pre-film animation device that produces the illusion of motion through rapid rotation and stroboscopic light. The zoetrope animates scenes of bowerbirds and birds of paradise as they perform elaborate mating rituals. The work offers a captivating demonstration of how aesthetic diversity has evolved through sexual selection and also reflects the artist's ongoing examination of our insatiable appetite for visual stimulation.

The exhibition continues with the audiovisual installation *The End of Innocence* (2009) from the Fundació Sorigué's collection. The ghostly, digitally manipulated portraits of Pope Innocent X by Diego Velázquez and Francis Bacon appear and disappear behind a curtain of constantly falling digital 'rain'. Collishaw says of the work, 'Bacon seemed to take the Velazquez portrait and plug it into the electric grid. Now in an age when everything is becoming rapidly digitalised, this work attempts to push this ethereal mirage into the nebulous world of micro computing and binary memory.'

The lower floor of the museum hosts ten other works, including the photographic series *Insecticide* (2006-2014). Here butterflies - symbols of the fragility of life - are crushed and enlarged to an exaggerated scale. The works capture the lifeless bodies of the insects, suspended in darkness and yet illuminated by the vibrant hues of their torn wings. The bright

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and mesmerising colours are in contrast with the dark nature of the subject, with the splayed bodies, broken antennae and dislocated limbs.

Last Meal on Death Row, Texas (2011) is a series of photographs, presented in the manner of Flemish still life painting. Such paintings often acted as a *memento mori*, a reminder of the inevitability of death and the transience of life on earth. For these works, Collishaw researched the last meals requested by prisoners on death row prior to execution. The dramatic solemnity of these images addresses a morally and politically charged issue.

About Mat Collishaw

Mat Collishaw (Nottingham, 1966) lives and works in London. He graduated from Goldsmith's College in 1989 and is a key figure in an important generation of contemporary British artists. He began his career exhibiting the acclaimed work *Bullet Hole* at the legendary show *Freeze* in 1988. His broad practice includes sculpture, photography, film and installation, and his work has been exhibited in numerous solo shows around the world. His work is in numerous public and private collections including; Tate and British Council Collections, both London; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Arter Foundation, Istanbul; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; Museum of Old and New Art, New South Wales and Olbricht Collection, Berlin.

In April 2019, with the support of Fundació Sorigué, he held his first solo exhibition in Spain, *Dialogues*, at the Royal Botanical Garden in Madrid.

About the educational program

In its desire to bring contemporary art to all audiences and, as it has done in previous exhibitions, Fundació Sorigué's Educational Area has designed an educational program intended for various levels of education in the schools with which it will arrange visits.

The proposal was presented on Tuesday, September 17 to the Lleida educational community, in collaboration with the Centre de Recursos Pedagògics del Segrià (Segrià Center for Educational Resources). The educational program, Mat Collishaw. *The End of Innocence* comprises three age segments: 6 to 10 years, 10 to 14 years, and 14 to 18 years.

Through the British artist's work the project explores current themes such as our relationship with the natural environment, the passage of time, self-perception, the manipulation imagery in the digital age and the deterioration of the environment, processed in a way that is adapted to each educational level.

Family workshops will also be offered, which will be held one Sunday each month.

About Fundació Sorigué

Fundació Sorigué is the driving force behind the Sorigué business group's core value of giving back, and carries out social, educational, and cultural activities. It is especially renowned for its work promoting contemporary art, which it carries out through many activities and exhibitions. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the first exhibition open to the public, with the work of Bill Viola exhibited at the Seu Vella in Lleida in July 2009, which was followed, at the foundation's headquarters, by individual exhibits from Antonio López, Wim Wenders, Chiharu Shiota and Oscar Muñoz.

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Between April and May 2019, Fundació Sorigué debuted in Madrid with an exhibition by British artist Mat Collishaw, *Dialogues*, which was held at the city's Royal Botanical Garden, where it received an extraordinary reception with more than 30,000 visits in two months.

Since the year 2000, Fundació Sorigué has been building one of the most renowned private collections of contemporary art in Spain, recognized with the 'Arte y Mecenazgo' prize, awarded by the "la Caixa" foundation, in May 2015; and the 2017 GAC Award for Collecting, conferred by the Art Galleries Guild of Catalonia with the collaboration of the Asociación Art Barcelona. It currently comprises over 450 works by relevant national and international artists.

The Foundation's informational and educational vocation is expressed through a series of activities that run parallel to each exhibition, as well as through an active policy of loans to national and international institutions. Similarly, together with the Sorigué group, it is the driving force behind the PLANTA project.

About PLANTA and its expanded offer

PLANTA is an innovative business management project based out of Sorigué's industrial complex in Balaguer (Lleida, Spain). This is an industrial and natural landscape that is home to art, architecture and knowledge, in such a way that industrial processes, research into new materials and site-specific installations from contemporary artists drive creativity and talent.

PLANTA opened its doors to the public for the first time in October 2017 with *Double Bind* by Juan Muñoz. This monumental installation, considered to be the pinnacle work of this internationally renowned artist, was created in 2001 for the Turbine Hall in the Tate Modern.

In June 2019 PLANTA unveiled its first permanent installation, *Ocean Without a Shore*, by the world-renowned video artist, Bill Viola. This installation represents a series of encounters in the intersection between life and death, through videos shown on three large-scale high-definition screens within a space that was custom-built for his exhibit. It was originally created to be exhibited in the Church of San Gallo during the Venice Biennale in 2007, and since that date it had not been re-exhibited in Europe.

PLANTA kicks off a new season From October 5, in which in addition to these two facilities you can visit the Kiefer Pavilion, PLANTA's first artistic space, which until now could not be visited by the general public. The pavilion, built in 2010, accommodates three large-format paintings by renowned German artist Anselm Kiefer.

At PLANTA we continue to work on new spaces that you will be able to visit in the future, with works by great artists such as William Kentridge, Chiharu Shiota, and others. All visits to PLANTA should be booked in advance.

Visiting Mat Collishaw's *The End of Innocence* and PLANTA

This season sees a new policy for accessing the different exhibitions of Fundació Sorigué and PLANTA. Visits by the general public can be booked after purchasing a ticket. In parallel, free educational visits are offered and encouraged.

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Bookings and further information at fundaciosorigue.com. Bookings for educational visits, through Fundació Sorigué Educational Area: aeducativa@fundaciosorigue.com or +34 600 600 003.

Museum schedule:

From Tuesday to Thursday from 10am to 2pm and from 4pm to 7pm.

Friday from 10am to 2pm

Saturday, Sunday and holidays from 11am to 2pm

Guided tours: Thursday 6pm and Saturday 12pm (midday) and 1pm

PLANTA tour schedule:

Saturday at 10am and 12pm (midday)

Communications Department, Fundació Sorigué

comunicacion@sorigue.com

Anna Garcia Sagué +34 673 700 368 / Sol Ortega +34 671 724 960 / Laura Rosa +34 671 701 740

www.fundaciosorigue.com