



HIDROGRAFIES

PILAR BELTRÁN

11 February- 15 April 2023

Opening: February 11 at 12 a.m

The exhibition *Hidrografies* brings together two projects with the water as a common thread. The show develops both projects generating a dialogue between them, thus opposing a current issue, the lack of essential resources in refugee camps on the limits of Europe. The approach starts in a nearby rural environment where water appears from the origins as an enabling element of life, to the point that it determines not only the settlement and structure of the population but also the relationships between neighbours.

Proyecto Agua ($100 \times 1 = 1000$) (*Water Project, 100x1=1000*) is a piece that reflects on the importance of water and its claim as a right in the face of its continuing commercial exploitation as another commodity. The human right to water and sanitation was approved in 2010 and only ten years later, in 2020, water entered the stock market. The artwork arises at a time of global pandemic in which we are constantly told about the importance of hygiene and social distancing, and we wonder what happens when this is not possible. We look at the overcrowded refugee camps located on the borders of Europe where thousands of people live and we approach, as in previous projects, some activists working on the ground. On the Turkish-Syrian border, in the Idlib region, several humanitarian aid projects are being developed in which a small Valencian organization of independent activists collaborates. One of the actions they are carrying out consists of the purchase and distribution of 1000 litre tanks to supply water, on a regular and continuous basis, to the fields and to the irregular human settlements in the area.

The installation Proyecto Agua, II ($1 \times 100 = 100$) (*Water Project II, (1x100=1000)*) is made up of a series of cyanotype prints showing images of different containers such as bottles, jugs, buckets, or glasses, through which we intend to visualize graphically a thousand of liters of water. The idea is to present a piece that has a direct implication with the problem raised. Besides, we suggest in our proposal to dedicate part of the economic benefits of its sale to purchase water tanks for the displaced population in Idlib.

In the second part of the exhibition, *Acto de conciliación (Act of Conciliation)*, water initially emerges as an enabling element that articulates life in a small town. The fountain-washing is the space for socialization, a symbolic meeting place where we rinse clothes and clear up disagreements derived from living together. The movement of the flowing water transforms everything in the washing area: it introduces sound and blurs the reflection of the surrounding space on the surface of the water. From these elements the idea for an installation arises, later documented on video, in which an inverted text (*Act of Conciliation*) placed on the wall is reflected in the water and can be read or not, depending on its flow, telling us how complex it is to keep some harmony. Also associated with the wash house and the act of washing, cleaning and rinsing, different pieces of soap have been made with the same inscription that appears in various parts of the installation (*Act of Conciliation*) and are offered to the visitor as an invitation for the dialogue.

Water Project, II. ($1 \times 100 = 1000$) and the *Act of Conciliation* arise within two IVAM initiatives (IVAM Produce -2020- and Confluències -2022-).

The soap presented at the *Act of Conciliation* installation have been produced in collaboration with the company Jabones Pardo (Madrid).