

BESTUÉ-VIVES

ACTIONS IN THE UNIVERSE

From 8 February to 20 May 2012

CaixaForum

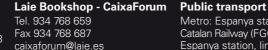
Social and Cultural Centre Av. de Francesc Ferrer i Guàrdia, 6-8 08038 Barcelona Tel. 934 768 600 Fax 934 768 635

Open daily Opening hours

Monday to Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Mediateca [Media Art Space]

Permanent consultation of works by these artists at the Media Art File Monday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tel. 934 768 651



Prats i Fatjó Coffee Bar

Restaurant - CaixaForum Tel. 934 768 669 Fax 934 768 687 caixaforum@husarestaurantes.es

Information Office

of "la Caixa" Social Projects Tel. 902 223 040 Monday to Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. www.laCaixa.es/ObraSocial



Metro: Espanya station, lines 1 and 3 Catalan Railway (FGC): Espanya station, lines S3, S33, S4, R5 and R6 Buses: lines 13 and 50. stop on Av. de Francesc Ferrer i Guàrdia, in front of CaixaForum

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Gran Via - Placa d'Espanya (station 96) Rius i Taulet (station 237)

P B:SM Car Park

Entrance from Av. de Maria Cristina and Av. de Rius i Taulet

E Direct access to CaixaForum at the basement level (-1)





BESTUÉ-VIVES

ACTIONS IN THE UNIVERSE

Contemporary Art Collection "Ia Caixa" Foundation

The server of th Obra Social "la Caixa"

ACTIONS IN THE UNIVERSE

Actions in the Universe is the culminating work in the series "Actions", a project that brought David Bestué and Marc Vives together on a collaborative artistic initiative ten years ago, and which has helped to make them the young Catalan artists with the greatest international projection today. The basic concerns behind their work, whose main characteristics are intelligent humour and an uninhibited attitude towards cultural conventions, are to activate the public space and to establish direct relations with people. "Actions" comprises four works in very different formats that take as their themes the urban space, the domestic space, the human body and, finally, an idea of the universe. The precarious nature of the media used and the artists' interest in accentuating experience is the consequence of their affinities with the legacy of conceptual art and the desacralisation of the art object. References to 20th-century art and culture are constant in all the works, interspersed with others related to their own personal imagery. Bestué-Vives use reality itself as the context, representing it in situations and narrative fictions in which paradox and the absurd are strategies for shaking up and rethinking reality in our own lives.

With the aim of providing a broader understanding of these artists' work, *Actions in the Universe* (2008), recently acquired by Contemporary Art Collection "la Caixa" Foundation, is presented in this exhibition together with the videos *Actions at home* (2005), *Story of the Enamoured Scorpion* (2008) and *State of Change* (2010).







II. INSIDE THE BODY

Atoms and molecules become tissues. The human intestine has changed our perspective, which leads us from what we saw to what we really are.

III. INSIDE THE EARTH

A cavern opens up in the Earth's interior. In it, stones are imbued with symbolism about human conducts and passions. These stones include, particularly, the existentialist stone, which emerged from the cavern without having been able to escape from its own matter and incapacity to decide its own fate.

IV. PHYSICAL SURFACE

On the Earth's surface, images appeal to the senses. Beings become aware of themselves in relation to a place.



ENTRANCE

Behind the golden curtain, a labyrinthine space opens up, inviting the willing spectator to take part in an unusual narrative, one full of obstacles and surprises. This route leads through eleven areas that recreate from the idea of the microscopic to that of the universe, passing through representations of the perfect and of conflict, spaces for experiment with the material and the mental, the origin and the end of our world.



V. UNIVERS

From Earth, we undertake an astral journey in which space and time undulate like a cosmic serpent. Objects orbit around the Sun and so it goes, until infinity.



I. THE MICRO

The route begins with the idea of the formation of life in a space in which molecules, plants and animals interact.



VI. MENTAL PERFECTION

The space of perfection is a place free from fear and desire, in which neither time nor space exist. Mathematics and geometry become irrevocable, and the concept is sufficiently abstract to exclude the human.











The journey continues through the space where ideas are formulated: a place of tension in which concepts enter into conflict with things.

VIII. MENTAL REALITY

You think, therefore you feel. Reflection can lead to a cul-de-sac and annihilate immovable certainties. We find ourselves in thrall to subjectivities that come close to the absurd that is only possible in dreams. Space undulates beneath our feet and our gaze is lost in infinite circles.





THE WORLD The world based on the fragility of the image also

IX. THE END

becomes diluted in the precarious nature of elastic relations. The images show the decadence of human thought, the Apocalypse as dictated by Providence and even, at times, the end of oneself.

X. RUPTURE

The world as we know it has entered into crisis, becoming a death trap in which we become very aware of our vulnerability. There are no longer any structures to sustain it. The promise of perfection has been broken due to our defects. We cannot think of something without either time or space, because such a place will never exist. Realising this leads to collapse.



XI. IMPLOSION

Matter finally disintegrates. This is the "post-mortem" moment, when things become inert. The long journey from dust to dust has begun.