

# CATALAN INTERNATIONAL VIEW

A EUROPEAN REVIEW OF THE WORLD



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COVER ARTIST: JOSEP CISQUELLA

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A SHORT STORY FROM HISTORY · THE ARTIST · A POEM

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# JOSEP CISQUELLA

In an age marked by an increasingly direct, instantaneous and provocative visual culture, Cisquella's work plunges the act of contemplation into crisis and introduces a criticism of the mechanics of the cognitive process. His scenography confronts the viewer with the instability of the limits of the pure, physical act of perceiving until being trapped by the trickery of an impenetrable screen of vision. Thus he questions the sense of the images that surround us and reflects on the need to go beyond appearances in order to detect the pitfalls of reality. In this way he contributes to the erosion of the certainty of the image, plays with the instability of the gaze and asks what the experience of seeing means. All his work moves in an interplay of polarities which reflect the dualities of today's society: natural-artificial, light-dark, private-public, real-virtual, past-present, nature-culture, reality-representation; a binary terrain in which the viewer actively intervenes, trying to position themselves through their participation.

Finally, upon inspecting his work we discover that there is a Cisquella for visualisation, a Cisquella for touch, also a Cisquella for ideas and another for feelings; he is an artist who imbues his materials with a new materiality which bids us to look, to think, to touch and to feel. His is a painting of vacancy and memories; an aesthetic experience which demands the re-education of the act of apprehending, far from the instant vision that characterises our connected society and the velocity and superficiality that is so often associated with it.

His works speak for themselves; they need no written justification, nor even explanations. Art has to be capable of awakening the imagination, that creative capacity of the mind that enables us to live other worlds. Cisquella's art opens the doors to other universes and allows us to pass through them to gain new impressions.

**Conxita Oliver**

Member of the Catalan Association of Art Critics

Espai Volart will hold Josep Cisquella's exhibition '*Es prega tocar*' (Please Touch) from the 19<sup>th</sup> January to the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012.

Espai Volart  
Carrer Ausiàs Marc, 22  
08010 Barcelona  
Tel. 93 481 79 85  
Fax. 93 481 79 84

[espaiolart@fundaciovilacasas.com](mailto:espaiolart@fundaciovilacasas.com)

FUNDACIÓ  
VILA CASAS

ESPAI  
VolART  
BARCELONA