

English **Irene Solà, *Notes on a novel (that I am not going to write), or the swimming pool, or the hair, the herb and the bread or the tomato plant.*** From September 18, 2017 at notesonanovel.com. Digital environment project. *Barcelona Producció* is an initiative of *La Capella*.

An Icelandic guy told me this story once:

His name was Bjarki, and he loved a girl called G so very much that he baked her some bread so she would love him back. To cook the bread he stole a hair from her head and he picked a plant from the mountains whose name he wouldn't tell me so I wouldn't attempt to do this myself. Then he baked the bread with the hair and the herb and offered it to G. G ate it and fell in love with him. And they would have lived happily ever after if Bjarki had never told her about his bread trick. When she found out, she went mad and left, and Bjarki never saw her again. Just like when in the Pyrenees you tell a goja (aka a water nymph) that she is a water nymph, and then she leaves and you never see her again.

When I lived in Iceland I drew a map and I marked on it everything I saw and all the legends and ghost stories I was told. Then I sent it to my loved one and then he loved me back, just as if I had sent him some warm bread.

One day O said he wanted to go to all the places I had marked on the map (and we bought plane tickets to Iceland and I paid €400 to rent a car).

And then I thought I would write a novel. A novel about the bread, the magic map, the trip we would do, the stories I was told the first time and the stories we would be told the second time.

It would have been a great novel. It would have received grants to write it and prizes to publish it and then more

prizes for already published novels.

But you know how ideas are like seeds. You plant them and some grow tall and green and some just never do.

Notes on a novel (that i am not going to write) or the swimming pool, or the hair, the herb and the bread, or the tomato plant is Irene Solà's project for Barcelona Producció for digital environments.

notesonanovel.com is a project about seeds that never grow, or about planting an apple tree but growing a tomato plant. It is the preparation for a novel that no one any longer intends to write. It is a novel that was never written and everything it could have been. It is a project about writing in the digital era, as the notes for this novel are going to be written online in a public folder on Google Drive. It is a meta-novel made up of all the plots, snippets and fragments, dialogues, notes and ideas, and discarded material that were never braided. And it is also a swimming pool full of thoughts, books, articles, conversations, questions, discoveries, investigations, anecdotes and stories.

You can read *Notes on a novel* here notesonanovel.com

Irene Solà is a writer and artist.

She has shown and read her work at the Whitechapel Gallery (London), Loop Festival, CCCB, Can Felipa, Sala d'Art Jove, Instituto Cervantes (London), ACVic, Bòlit (Girona), Museu de l'Emporda, Biennial d'Art Contemporani Català, Biennale de la Jeune Création Européenne, Quick Time Festival (Reykjavik), Festival Internacional de Poesia de Sant Cugat, Festa de la Poesia de Sitges and Festival Poesia i +, among others.

She received one of the 2016 grants for literary creation awarded by the Catalan Government Department of Culture, the 2015 Art Jove grant, the 2013 Ciutat de Vic grant for artistic creation and the 2012 Amadeu Oller Poetry Prize.

She curated *Creure en 10 coses impossibles abans d'esmorzar* for H. Associació per a les Arts Contemporànies and has also edited the fanzine *VOLS RUSSOS*.

She studied for her BA in Fine Arts at the University of Barcelona and Listaháskóli Íslands and for her MA in Literature, Film and Visual Culture at the University of Sussex, and took the Modern and Postmodern American Poetry course at the University of Pennsylvania.

She has published the poetry collection *Bèstia* (Galerada) / *Beast* (Shearsman Books).