

AMID THE STONES

30 YEARS OF LA CAPELLA

28.11.2024 – 19.01.2025

PUBLICACIONS BETWEEN 1994-2024 AND SSOP SUPPORT STRUCTURE

Amid the Stones considers everything that has happened in La Capella building between 1994 and 2024. Everything that has taken place inside, but also around this space that is celebrating thirty years of specialising in contemporary art at its base in Barcelona. A long and delightful dedication centred especially on an art which, by definition, is emerging and not so much by virtue of youth – though that too – but because of its emergence, its need and desire to exist, to make itself possible. A notion of desire that has been and still remains a feature of everything at La Capella: from the early curatorial seasons of the 1990s to the start of Barcelona Producció in 2006; from its contextual function as a powerhouse of production and exhibitions to partnerships and associations with other artistic spaces and contexts that the centre has always had throughout its history. Those of us in La Capella – meaning The Chapel – have always called it that because there is no better name for it. Even so, La Capella is an art centre given over to art that is emerging, in other words, an art that is always in the present. And while we have been thinking of the present, thirty years have passed.

Amid the Stones is a celebration involving many voices that places the emphasis on all the publications issued at La Capella during its existence. Hundreds of editions of books,

and other formats that have, paradoxically, generated a certain historiography of the present. A remarkable volume of publications that are the foundations of a possible history of contemporary art that does not claim to be – nor has any interest in being – history. And for this reason, we have decided to display all these books with no interpretative intention or pretension at categorisation. We have decided to share with everyone all this material – material in the rough, so to speak – though sadly some items are missing. Within this fonds we find folders containing small booklets, group catalogues, books that grew out of collaborative initiatives, numerous publications by single authors, some that form a collection, others that do not; we also find unique, atypical publications such as novels, essays and even albums on vinyl and CD; there are fanzines, posters and modest, discreet publications too. And in amid them, we also detect absences: projects that did not have an accompanying publication, highlighting, moreover, a contradictory, fragile current situation in terms of publishing, as La Capella has stopped producing publications in order to support other types of relational and training dynamics.

To do this, we have invited SSOP – Support Structures Operations –, a collective that specialises in exhibition design consisting of Nerea de Lezana,

Mateo Palazzi, Juan Ezcurra and Ignacio Ezcurra, who have offered us a support structure – not an item of furniture – on which the publications engage in a dialogue with each other and also with the impression of this architecture. An impression that in one way or another all of you who have passed through La Capella have had. SSOP have designed a display on which all of La Capella's publications coexist on the same level, mixed up and without hierarchies.

Amid the Stones presents a comprehensive array of all these publications, but it does so from the standpoint of the here and now. Books and other formats available for people to pick up, touch, read and consult, the only limitation being the effects of the passage of time, as some publications are in very short supply and common sense dictates that we safeguard the few copies that exist. In these cases, we propose a private and careful consultation at the centre's reception.

Amid the Stones features over 100 publications to enjoy for a long time or a brief while; publications to remember or discover. In short, books and other publishing formats that are part of the artistic context of Barcelona; or rather, publications that are themselves the context.

In addition, the celebration of La Capella's thirtieth anniversary includes public programmes entitled *An Oral History* – overseen by Oriol Gual, director of La Capella between 1994 and 2020 and hence a person with especially close connections to the centre over the course of its history – that revive significant testimony in the life of the centre. People who, at different times and in different roles, have strengthened that idea of the present continuous that has defined and must always define La Capella.

David Armengol
Artistic Director of La Capella