



IN EVENT OF MOON DISASTER

JULIA LLERENA

CURATED BY GREGORIO CÁMARA

ON VIEW SEPTEMBER 7 – OCTOBER 7, 2018
OPENING RECEPTION SEPTEMBER 7, 2018 7 – 9 PM
FRIDAY – SUNDAY, 1 – 6 PM
OR BY APPOINTMENT

I want my paintings to look like what's going on outside my window, rather than what's inside my studio
- Robert Rauschenberg

Fresh Window Gallery is pleased to present the first solo exhibition in the US by Spanish artist Julia Llerena entitled *In Event of Moon Disaster* and curated by Gregorio Cámara. Julia Llerena utilizes fragments of everyday objects, which she finds in the streets, as building blocks for her work and shares a similar aim as Rauschenberg. While walking through the city she has an instinctive connection to these found objects, these “City gifts”, as Rauschenberg called them, which are shreds of a larger item or small objects. In this way she brings the outside, her surroundings into her studio.



Llerena's practice presents a strong connection to archeology. Not only through the collecting process of found objects but also in the way they are displayed. Unpretentious wooden shelves and glass sheets resemble scientific archival techniques, such as in *Fiebre de Archivo*. Here Llerena reflects on the role of language as a record of reality. It is the written word that leaves a reliable trace of events, especially when presented in a scientific manner. She arranges these small objects to transcribe a text by using each one as a letter. The intersection between the symbolic meaning that they are charged with, and the formal use as language that they physically represent poses questions about veracity.

Paramount in Llerena's work is also a fascination with the universe. Shreds and small objects function as a stepping-stone from her studio into space, such as in the pieces titled *Eclipses* and *Skies Books*. They are representations of a real book, a simulacrum. Its essence is representation, and as such it is a display of the idea of display.

In the work titled *In Event of Moon disaster* Llerena transcribes Nixon's Apollo XI alternative failure statement onto the Daily Telegraph's article about the successful landing. She covers with a black marker most of the content so it would only show Nixon's speech. Darkened in its majority, newspaper pages resemble space, as the visible characters stand out like stars. Both lines of work, above-mentioned, language and the universe converge here. Arranged as if it was a French window, she taps on themes of sight and perception, fiction and reality and representation.

Julia Llerena, b. Seville, Spain, is an artist based in Madrid, Spain. She holds a BFA (2009) in Graphic Design from the University of Seville, and a MFA (2013) in Research and Contemporary Art Practice from Complutense University in Madrid. Recent solo exhibitions include *El Todo como Objeto*, Rocío Santa Cruz Gallery, Barcelona, Spain (2018), *Estrato Cero* Blue Projects Foundation Barcelona, Spain (2018), and *Los Secretos de un Ardid* Sala de la Capilla del Hospital Real, Granada, Spain (2018). A recent two-person exhibition was *Fictional Reality* Spring Break Art Show, New York (2018). Llerena is the recipient of the Iniciarte Grant, Addaya, Mallorca (2017).