

Galería Elba Benítez



EL ULTIMO GRITO

Visitants

April 13 – June 12, 2024

The Galería Elba Benítez is pleased to present *Visitants*, an exhibition of new work by El Ultimo Grito.

Visitants consists of works in various media — film, video, objects and installations— that, while fully autonomous as individual art works, as a group are intertwined conceptually, coming together into a fluid yet unified whole, much the way the fluid experience of cinema derives from the sequencing of fixed, discrete components. As a result, *Visitants* can be thought of as a kind of spatial movie, where the objects, the videos, the narration and the installation are all elements that are to be pieced together —or “edited”, as in editing a film— in each individual’s mind. As El Ultimo Grito has stated:

If we consider reality as our own perception of the world, then we could say there are as many versions of the same event as there are people. It is only by establishing some external accord on the means, context, morality, etc., that we are able to come to pockets of consensual “what’s going ons” and “what have just happened.”

This simultaneously syncretic and synthetic approach to exhibition-making that underlies *Visitants* also reflects the broader creative and theoretical processes, known as Physical Editing, that El Ultimo Grito has developed through its expanded artistic and design practice, while also employing it as a teaching methodology in its academic work.

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In addition, from a narrative perspective *Visitants* is premised as a 'prequel' to El Ultimo Grito's recent acclaimed exhibition and curatorial project *Earth: A Retrospective* at the Bombas Gens Centre d'Art (Valencia), which took as its conceptual point of departure the idea of using art objects and cultural artifacts as a means of looking back toward present-day Earth from some uncertain future vantage point. Instead, *Visitants* inverts the temporal perspective, viewing that same uncertain future but looking forward toward it from the vantage point of a similarly uncertain present via the art works on view.

Within this conceptual framework, *Visitants* casts a wide net of literary and cinematic references —to the writings of Samuel Beckett, Flann O'Brien, the Strugatsky Brothers, as well as to films and film theory such as Chris Marker (in particular his time-travel masterpiece *La Jetée*) and the montage theories of Lev Kuleshov and Sergei Eisenstein. These references, however are more implicit than explicit, embedded within while also embodied by the individual works and the overall experience that, taken together, comprise *Visitants*.

Founded in 1997, El Ultimo Grito is composed of Roberto Feo and Rosario Hurtado (United Kingdom, 1964; Spain, 1966; live and work in London.) El Ultimo Grito's practice and academic focus gravitate around its research interest into the role of design in the production of fictions. The work of El Ultimo Grito spans multiple disciplines, contexts and media, including installations, objects, films, performances and publications, as well as curatorial, editorial and academic projects. Regardless of format, El Ultimo Grito uses its practice to develop inventively analytic (and at times playful) 'new' representations of existing systems —material, graphic, linguistic, philosophical, technological— on which our socio-political and cultural environment is structured.

El Ultimo Grito's works form part of collections at MoMA The Museum of Modern Art (New York); the MAD Museum of Arts and Design (New York); the Colección Inelcom de Arte Contemporáneo (Madrid); the Centre national des arts plastiques (Cnap) (Paris); the Victoria and Albert Museum (London); and the Shanghai Museum of Glass. In 2012 El Ultimo Grito was awarded the prestigious London Design Medal acknowledging their contribution to design in the United Kingdom, as well as the Madrid Design Festival award in 2019.

Visitants is El Ultimo Grito's third exhibition at Galería Elba Benítez.