

Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley

No Comment

19.7.2024 – 20.10.2024

Opening 18 July at 7.00 pm

We Will Keep Each Other Company When It Grows Dark

Season of exhibitions in Espai 13 of the Fundació Joan Miró

02.02.2024 – 19.01.2025

A season curated by Irina Mutt

With the support of the Fundació Banc Sabadell

Press release

- ***No Comment* is the third of the exhibitions in the season *We Will Keep Each Other Company When It Grows Dark* and Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley's first solo show in Barcelona.**
- **The exhibition uses video games to generate archives about the lives of Black and Trans people.**
- **An interactive exhibition that questions identity, values and the capacity for empathy.**
- ***We Will Keep Each Other Company When It Grows Dark* is the season presented in Espai 13 by the Fundació Joan Miró for 2024 with the support of the Fundació Banc Sabadell. Curated by Irina Mutt, the season stems from a desire to situate interdependence, to explain it and share it through four solo exhibitions in which each artist will present their particular way of being in the world and of managing and agreeing the spaces through which they pass.**

Barcelona, 11 July 2024. The Fundació Joan Miró presents *No Comment*, the third in the Espai 13 season of exhibitions *We Will Keep Each Other Company When It Grows Dark*, curated by Irina Mutt. This is the British artist Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley's first solo show in Barcelona.

In many of her projects, Brathwaite-Shirley is interested in generating archives that document and recall Black and Trans lives. These archives often take the form of video games, but they can also adopt other formats such as installations, writings and performances.



Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley, *I Need Your Help / Tá Do Chúnamh Ag Teastáil Uaim*, 2022.
Installation in the Projects Art Centre, Dublin.

Rather than organising information or generating taxonomies, Brathwaite-Shirley's archives address and challenge us. As we enter them, they force us to rethink issues to do with our identity, our intentions and our values. Through her pieces, visitors interpret situations and make decisions based on what is shown in the stories recounted by each archive.

Brathwaite-Shirley's works do not dictate to us what we ought to do or how we should think. They reflect our image back to us, leaving room for us to be the ones who make the decisions and deal with the consequences. The artist does not seek to offer responses or to arouse empathy, but rather to question who we are and what we can do.

When visitors enter the exhibition, they have to accept its terms and conditions. *No Comment* presents a fictional account about a world ravaged by fire, in which visitors can interact with the traces of the characters who inhabited it. We will listen to their stories to recall them, share them and make it possible for them to be remembered or forgotten.

Using video games as a tool for telling interactive stories, *No Comment* addresses the way accounts of violence experienced by others are received and shared. What do we need in order to feel empathy? Are there identities with which we identify more closely? What lives do we remember and celebrate? For whose bodies do we demand justice and whose are forgotten? These are just some of the questions Brathwaite-Shirley makes us consider.

The way we listen and involve ourselves affects the denouement of the stories. Causes and effects are presented, but the artist does not judge, nor does she add explanations that would provide clues. The meaning of the story and the responses that emerge from it are defined by each person based on their own experiences and ideas.

The video game stories also expand into the paintings and sculptures of the installation, affecting us outside the exhibition room and beyond our participation.

Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley (London, 1995) divides her time between London and Berlin. She works predominantly in animation, sound, performance and video games. Her practice focuses on intertwining lived experience with fiction to rewrite the stories of Black Trans people.

Brathwaite-Shirley holds a BA from the Slade School of Fine Art in London (2019). In recent years, her work has been shown internationally at institutions such as LAS Art Foundation (Berlin, 2024), Studio Voltaire (London, 2024), Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève (Geneva, 2024), Savannah College of Arts and Design (Savannah, 2023), Art Night Dundee (Dundee, 2023), Villa Arson Nice (Nice, 2023), Julia Stoschek Foundation (Berlin, 2022), Foundation of Art and Creative Technology (Liverpool, 2022), David Kordansky Gallery (Los Angeles, 2022), Project Arts Centre (Dublin, 2022), Skånes konstförening (Malmö, 2022), Arebyte Gallery (London, 2021), QUAD Derby (Derby, UK, 2021) and Albright-Knox Art Gallery (Buffalo, 2021).

Upcoming exhibitions in the *We Will Keep Each Other Company* *When It Grows Dark* season:

Helena Vinent

31.10.2024 – 19.01.2025

The Barcelona-born artist Helena Vinent will create a space in which fiction and reality cease to be excluding binarisms. She will be taking over Espai 13 by bursting into the exhibition room and turning her attention to the issue of accessibility, and activating in it ideas and concepts to do with access, pleasure and desire. How do we enter Espai 13? Is it a different experience for every visitor? The artist has no intention of asking for permission to be there, nor does she aim to adapt to the dominant ableist system. The system will be assaulted and brought to a halt. The installation proposed by Vinent will generate situated actions of desiring and desirable bodies that question ableist expectations. Espai 13 will become the possible setting in which non-normative bodies will cease to be docile and deprived of agency and will instead become a danger, a threat that will rock normality.

Teo Ala-Ruona

Performance to close the season
25.1.2025

The season will close with a performance by the Finnish artist Teo Ala-Ruona about Trans corporeality as a phantasmagorical and transcendental experience.

Images and material for the press are available at <https://www.fmirobcn.org/en/foundation/press/> and at <https://bit.ly/EnsAcompanyaremEspai13>. You can follow Espai 13 activities on social media using the hashtag [#EnsAcompanyaremEspai13](https://bit.ly/EnsAcompanyaremEspai13).

Fundació Joan Miró * J... Barcelona

Fundació Joan Miró
Parc de Montjuïc
08038 Barcelona
T +34 934 439 070
press@fmirobcn.org

www.fmirobcn.org