

ENGLISH

SEPTEMBER > OCTOBER 2020



AZKUNA
ZENTROA
ALHÓNDIGA
BILBAO



society and
contemporary culture

Bilbao



CONTEMPORARY ART / EXHIBITION
OCT. 14 > JAN. 24

Mabi Revuelta

Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal
(*Achromatic. An Immortal Game*)

Curator: Susana Blas

In co-production with Tabacalera. Promoción del Arte (Madrid)

THE EXHIBITION REVIEWS OVER 2 DECADES OF THE ARTIST MABI REVUELTA'S (2016 GURE ARTEA AWARD) CAREER AND PRESENTS HER LATEST PROJECT, **ACROMÁTICA**, INSPIRED BY ONE OF THE MOST BRILLIANT CHESS GAMES IN HISTORY: THE IMMORTAL GAME (1851).

Azkuna Zentroa - Alhóndiga Bilbao presents the exhibition *Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal (Achromatic. An Immortal Game)* by artist *Mabi Revuelta* (Bilbao, 1967) curated by *Susana Blas* (Madrid, 1969), contemporary art curator and historian.

Taking chess as the guiding thread, the exhibition reviews the artist's career and presents *Acromática*, her unpublished project that gives title to the exhibition. The journey begins in a first space (Apertura / Opening) housing the installation *Naturaleza muerta con perlas negras* (Dead nature with black pearls), a reviewed sculptural piece which sets the poetic tone of the exhibition. In the second space (Medio juego (mid-game)), the diverse works that make up the project *Acromática* have been inspired by one of the most artistic chess games in history, namely, the Immortal Game, disputed between Adolf Anderssen and Lionel Kieseritzky in 1851. Finally, in the last space (Fin de partida (Endgame)) we have *Línea del Tiempo* (Timeline), a summary of the artist's career inspired in the four eras of chess, i.e. romantic, scientific, hyper-modern and dynamic.

To quote Mabi Revuelta, «in the *Acromática* series of works I insistently return to the universe of games, in this case taking chess and its special set of rules and movements as my inspiration. Over a reduced two colour field we view the immense serious deployment of world order and destiny of beings and things. Through sculpture, film, contemporary dance, music and writing, I try to create a story about the king of games going beyond the limits of the same, articulated from artistic, intellectual, bellicose and vital metaphors».

According to curator Susana Blas, «the anthological section reviews the artist's career and divides her work up into four categories which define the eras of chess history. These categories are also four ways of playing and tackling this universal discipline».

Mabi Revuelta's works reflect on universal topics present in her works since she started out, i.e. real-fictional relationships, the permeability of genres (literature, performing arts, sculpture, drawing, audio-visual arts), research into artistic education and the search for teaching strategies to assess the artistic deed as a driving force of social change.

The exhibition is accompanied by the *Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal (Achromatic. An Immortal Game)* book-catalogue on sale at dendAZ and dendaz.azkunazentroa.eus (October 2020). More information on page 62.

October 14 > January 24

Exhibition Hall
Free admission

Opening hours

From Monday to Sunday:
11:00am - 7:00pm

Guided visits (45'):

Every Thursday: 6:00pm

Free admission. Prior registration:

Az Info / 944 014 014

Minimum: 4 people

Maximum: 10 people

Co-production:



PROMOCIÓN DEL ARTE

Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal is a co-production between Azkuna Zentroa - Alhóndiga Bilbao and Tabacalera Promoción del Arte (Madrid), where it will be exhibited in La Principal (February, 2021).

Azkuna Zentroa publications

Azkuna Zentroa publications corpus includes contemporary artistic practice for its knowledge and dissemination. Said corpus comprises exhibition catalogues, essays and books revolving around the different lines of the Centre programme.



Title:
Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal

For sale, coming soon.

Languages:
Basque, Spanish, English

Mabi Revuelta. **Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal**

Catalogue of the exhibition titled *Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal* (*Achromatic. An Immortal Game*) by the artist Mabi Revuelta (Bilbao, 1967), curated by Susana Blas (Madrid, 1969) and co-produced by Azkuna Zentroa (14 October 2020-24 January 2021) and Tabacalera Promoción del Arte. Madrid (February 2021).

The project looks back at the artist's career and presents her most recent work. With chess as the central theme, the exhibition is divided into two parts: *Acromática* (Achromatic) (the new project) and *Línea de tiempo* (Timeline) (a concise retrospective of three decades of work), preceded by a revised sculpture piece (*Naturaleza muerta con perlas negras*), 2012-2020. The unpublished project *Acromática* is inspired by one of the most artistic chess game in history: the Immortal, played in 1851 by Adolf Anderssen and Lionel Kieseritzky.

Preview:



Book-research on the Alhóndiga

The Bilbao Municipal Alhóndiga, home to *Azkuna Zentroa - Alhóndiga Bilbao*, is a building designed and built by the Bilbao architect Ricardo de Bastida. It was inaugurated in 1909. Art historians Mikel Bilbao Salsidua and Arantxa Pereda Angulo are studying the eventful interesting life of over 110 years' existence of this building. The results of this research will be recorded in a book to be published, regarding the reasons that led up to erection of this unique building originally designed to store wine, until its transformation into the present day *Contemporary Culture and Society Centre*, namely.

ENGLISH

NOVEMBER > DECEMBER 2020



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An Immortal game by Mabi Revuelta

The artist [Mabi Revuelta](#) (Bilbao, 1967) will be showing *Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal (Achromatic: An Immortal Game)*, a review of her career that includes her latest work, *Acromática*, in the exhibition hall.

Curated by [Susana Blas](#) (Madrid, 1969) and co-produced with [Tabacalera Promoción del Arte \(Madrid\)](#), the exhibition turns to a dramatization of the history of chess as the central theme.



Still Life with Black Pearl/Innegras (2002)

Opening: *Still Life with Black Pearl*

With minimalism and restraint, the revised piece *Pearls* (2002) now converted into an immense still life, speaks at once of finitude and immortality. The pearls and spheres of the 2002 version are now joined by imperfect shapes, organic representations, geometric elements and replicas of domestic utensils, creating a disturbing blanket of multiform particles.

By way of an introduction, it begins with the installation, *Still Life with Black Pearls*; it continues with *Middlegame*, where the different pieces of *Acromática* are displayed; and ends with the *Endgame*, where a *Timeline* reviews the artist's trajectory divided into four eras, similar to the eras of chess.

Mabi Revuelta's work reflects on universal themes which have been present in her

work since the beginning: the relationship between reality and fiction, the permeability of genres (literature, performing arts, sculpture, drawing, audio-visual arts), the research in the field of artistic education and the search for didactic strategies to emphasise art as a driver of social change.



Acromática (2020)

Middlegame: *Acromática*

Acromática is an interdisciplinary work that incorporates many of the topics of the artist's research, such as a review of the legacy of the avant-garde movements of the 20th century or her research on the bridges between art and education. Based on *The Immortal*, the famous, fascinating chess game and on Marcel Duchamp's history with this game, Mabi Revuelta creates an original narrative that unfolds in dance, video, photography, sculpture and costumes.

An Immortal game by Mabi Revuelta



Acromática (2020)

The two films directed by Mabi Revuelta which represent the essential part of *Acromática* are found in the audio-visual space, in the *Middlegame*. Installed in synchronised projection, they include an original soundtrack by [Mursego](#) and [Itziar Madariaga](#), costumes by [Ibai Labega](#), photography direction by [Gaizka Bourgeaud](#), choreography direction by [Blanca Arrieta](#) and [Txuspo Poyo](#) as direction assistant.



Acromática (2020)

Accompanying the videos are eight photographs that capture selected sequences of movements, a chessboard installation, costumes and a notebook with fifty framed pages.



Timeline Hypermodern era

Endgame: *Timeline*

To exemplify the construction of the discourse on the artist's work, the curator superimposes on the chronological development of Mabi Revuelta's work the history of chess in stages, dividing her work into four categories that coincide with the eras of the history of chess, which are also seen as four ways of playing and confronting this universal discipline.

Romantic era: Affection and drive

In this first stage we find many of the works from the artist's first decade, conceived from intuition, impulse and the passion of the early years.

Scientific or classical era: Specificity and archives

In this stage we find a group of works where the body and identity are treated from a more distanced perspective. References to medicine replace soft, organic materials. The inside of the body, and in particular the skeleton, resurfaces in X-rays and sculptures, and greater premeditation, examination and prior preparation of the projects is perceived.

Hypermodern era: A tribute to the first avant-gardes

The artist's study of the first avant-garde movements of the 20th century is neither occasional nor anecdotal. She is interested in avant-garde movements as times when art, education and social change are linked in a profound way.

Dynamic era: Strategy and creative ambition

During this period, we find the artist's most elaborate «total artwork» projects, in which planning and complex design, as well as risk and overflowing intuition, prevail.



VISUAL ART / EXHIBITION

OCT. 14 > JAN. 24

Mabi Revuelta

Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal
(*Achromatic. An Immortal Game*)

Curator: Susana Blas

In co-production with Tabacalera. Promoción del Arte (Madrid)

Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal (Achromatic. An Immortal Game) reviews the artist Mabi Revuelta's career and exhibits her most recent work, *Acromática*, which was produced for this event. The exhibition is curated by Susana Blas, contemporary art curator and historian.

The first space of the exhibition (*Opening*) features the installation titled *Still Life with Black Pearls*, a revised sculptural piece that sets the poetic tone of the exhibition. The second space (*Middlegame*) features the different works that comprise *Acromática*, inspired by one of the most artistic chess games in history: the Immortal Game played by Adolf Anderssen and Lionel Kieseritzky in 1851. The last space (*Endgame*) includes *Timeline*, a summary of the artist's career based on the four eras of chess: romantic, scientific, hypermodern and dynamic.

To quote Mabi Revuelta, «in the *Acromática* series of works I insistently return to the universe of games, in this case taking chess and its special set of rules and movements as my inspiration. Over a reduced two colour field we view the immense serious deployment of world order and destiny of beings and things. Through sculpture, film, contemporary dance, music and writing, I try to create a story about the king of games going beyond the limits of the same, articulated from artistic, intellectual, bellicose and vital metaphors».

MABI REVUELTA. (Bilbao, 1967) Winner of the 2016 Gure Artea Award, she studied Fine Arts at the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) (1990) and from then onwards began to exhibit her work in galleries, art centres, fairs and national and international museums. She combines her career as a plastic artist with education and research into new art pedagogies. From 2000 to 2003 she lived in New York, and completed her training in the International Studio & Curatorial Program in 2003 after having received an arts grant from the Marcelino Botín Foundation. She received the Leonardo Grant from the BBVA Foundation (2016) to develop *Acromática*, the project that gives its name to this exhibition.

SUSANA BLAS BRUNEL. (Madrid, 1969) Curator and contemporary art historian. Audiovisual creation specialist, she has been a scriptwriter for the television cultural space *Metrópolis (tve2)* since 1999. She writes for various publications on current art and feminism, and gives courses and masters' degrees in these subjects. She has received the MAV Award (Women in the Visual Arts) in the category of Project Manager for Gender Equality in 2016 and the White, Black and Magenta Award in 2017. She is a member of the MAV Advisory Board and researcher for the ARES project at the University of Fine Arts in Cuenca. She has curated numerous video cycles and exhibitions.

«THE ANTHOLOGICAL PART REVIEWS THE ARTIST'S CAREER, AND ORGANIZES HER WORK INTO FOUR CATEGORIES THAT DEFINE THE ERAS OF CHESS HISTORY. THESE ARE, IN TURN, FOUR WAYS OF PLAYING AND DEALING WITH THIS UNIVERSAL DISCIPLINE».
SUSANA BLAS

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October 14 > January 24

Exhibition Hall
Free admission

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Opening hours

From Tuesday to Sunday:
11:00am - 8:00pm

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Guided visits (45'):

Every Thursday: 7:00pm
Free admission. Prior registration:

Az Info / 944 014 014
Maximum: 5 people

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Co-production:



PROMOCIÓN DEL ARTE

Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal is a co-production between Azkuna Zentroa - Alhóndiga Bilbao and Tabacalera Promoción del Arte (Madrid), where it will be exhibited in La Principal (February, 2021).

Collaborator:



ENGLISH

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH 2021



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society and
contemporary culture



Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal

VISUAL ARTS / EXHIBITION

OCT. 14 > APR. 11

Mabi Revuelta

Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal
(*Achromatic. An Immortal Game*)

Curator: Susana Blas

In co-production with Tabacalera. Promoción del Arte (Madrid)

Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal (Achromatic. An Immortal Game) reviews the career of the artist **Mabi Revuelta**, while also showing her latest work *Achromatic*, produced for this exhibition. The exhibition is curated by **Susana Blas**, curator and historian of contemporary art.

Articulated through the dramaturgy of chess, the tour begins with the Opening, a first space where the installation titled *Naturaleza muerta con perlas negras (Still Life with Black Pearls)* is located. It is a revised sculptural piece that sets the poetic tone of the exhibition.

In Mid-game the various works that make up *Achromatic* unfold, inspired by one of the most artistic chess games in history: the Immortal game, played in 1851 between Adolf Anderssen and Lionel Kieseritzky.

With this series, Mabi Revuelta takes chess and its norms as a reference to "through sculpture, cinema, contemporary dance, music and writing, create a story of the king of games beyond its limits, articulated through artistic, intellectual, warlike and vital metaphors."

In the last space, the End of game, we find *Linea de tiempo (Timeline)*, a summary of the artist's career based on the four eras of chess: romantic, scientific, hypermodern and dynamic.

MABI REVUELTA. (Bilbao, 1967) Winner of the 2016 Gure Artea Award, she studied Fine Arts at the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) (1990) and from then onwards began to exhibit her work in galleries, art centres, fairs and national and international museums. She combines her career as a plastic artist with education and research into new art pedagogies. From 2000 to 2003 she lived in New York, and completed her training in the International Studio & Curatorial Program in 2003 after having received an arts grant from the Marcelino Botín Foundation. She received the Leonardo Grant from the BBVA Foundation (2016) to develop *Acromática*, the project that gives its name to this exhibition.

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«LIKE THE GAME PLAYED BY ADOLF ANDERSSSEN AND LIONEL KIESERITZKY IN 1851, I CONSIDER THAT ART IS IMMORTAL BECAUSE IT CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM CULTURE AND SOCIETY. FOR THIS REASON, I BELIEVE THAT IT IS A NECESSARY GOOD».
MABI REVUELTA

October 14 > April 24

Exhibition Hall
Free admission

Opening hours

From Tuesday to Sunday:
11:00am - 8:00pm

Guided visits (30'):

Every Thursday: 6:00pm and 7pm

Free admission. Prior registration:

Az Info / 944 014 014

Maximum: 5 people

Co-production:



PROMOCIÓN DEL ARTE

Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal is a co-production between Azkuna Zentroa - Alhóndiga Bilbao and Tabacalera Promoción del Arte (Madrid), where it will be exhibited in La Principal (2021).

Collaborator:



The exhibition is accompanied by the book-catalog *Achromatic. An Immortal Game* on sale at the **dendAZ** store and at dendaz.azkunazentroa.eus. +info: page 66.

Azkuna Zentroa publications

Azkuna Zentroa publications corpus includes contemporary artistic practice for its knowledge and dissemination. Said corpus comprises exhibition catalogues, essays and books revolving around the different lines of the Centre programme.

Próximas publicaciones:



Title:
Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal

Languages:
Basque, Spanish, English

28€

Mabi Revuelta. Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal

Catalogue of the *Achromatic. An Immortal Game* exhibition by the artist *Mabi Revuelta* (Bilbao, 1967) curated by *Susana Blas* (Madrid, 1969), and co-produced by Azkuna Zentroa (14 October 2020 - 11 April 2021) and Tabacalera Promoción del Arte, Madrid (second quarter of 2021). The catalogue is conceived as an 'expanded exhibition' where the three parts of the work are reproduced, expanded with a retrospective section in which the catalographic pieces of over 40 outstanding works of Mabi Revuelta's entire artistic career are presented.

The curatorial essay by *Susana Blas* is accompanied by texts written by *Antonio Gude*, a chess expert, and by *Luis Francisco Pérez*, a contemporary art critic and theoretician.



26€

Azkuna Zentroa - Alhóndiga Bilbao. From a wine warehouse to a Society and Contemporary Culture Centre

Bilbao had other 'alhóndigas' (wine warehouses) before all the services were centralised in a single building back in 1909. This book spans more than one hundred years of this eventful and interesting history, based on the research of the art historians Mikel Bilbao Salsidua and Arantxa Pereda Angulo.

The publication focuses on the situation prior to Ricardo Bastida's Alhóndiga Municipal project and the architect's interest in developing the city of Bilbao. It also reviews the projects and renovations carried out after it was closed in the 1960s, culminating in Phillippe Starck's proposal and the creation of what is now Bilbao's Society and Contemporary Culture Centre.

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Should you wish to purchase either of these two books in advance, you can request one or both by sending us an email with your details to info@azkunazentroa.eus and we will contact you in that regard.

PROGRAMME
ENGLISH

APRIL MAY JUNE 2021



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Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal

VISUAL ARTS / EXHIBITION

OCT. 14 > APR. 11

Mabi Revuelta

Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal

Curator: Susana Blas

The Acromática *Una Partida Inmortal* exhibition by **Mabi Revuelta** is open until 11th April. The project reviews the artist's trajectory while showing her latest work *Acromática*, produced for this exhibition. The exhibition is curated by **Susana Blas**, curator and historian of contemporary art.

Articulated through the dramaturgy of chess, the tour begins with the Opening, a first space where the installation titled *Naturaleza muerta con perlas negras* (Still Life with Black Pearls) is located. It is a revised sculptural piece that sets the poetic tone of the exhibition.

In Mid-game the various works that make up *Acromática* unfold, inspired by one of the most artistic chess games in history: the Immortal game, played in 1851 between Adolf Anderssen and Lionel Kieseritzky.

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I CONSIDER THAT
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MABI REVUELTA

October 14 > April 11

Exhibition Hall

Opening hours

From Tuesday to Sunday:
11:00am - 8:00pm

Guided visits (30'):

Every Thursday: 6:00pm and 7pm

Free admission. Prior registration:
Az Info / 944 014 014

Maximum: 6 person*

*The number of people per visit may vary depending on the measures which may be adopted at any given moment to control the pandemic. Further information at azkunazentroa.eus

Co-production



PROMOCIÓN DEL ARTE

Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal is a co-production between Azkuna Zentroa - Alhóndiga Bilbao and Tabacalera Promoción del Arte (Madrid), where it will be exhibited in La Principal (2021).

Collaborator:



The exhibition is accompanied by the book-catalog *Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal*, on sale at the **dendAZ**. This is **Basque Design** store and at dendaz.azkunazentroa.eus

Azkuna Zentroa publications

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Latest publications:



El ensayo empieza aquí
ISBN: 978-84-120368-9-3
Pages: 207
Format: 190 x 140 mm
Bookbinding: Rustic, stitched
18€

El ensayo empieza aquí

Caniche Editorial

In 2020 it was not possible to hold Gutun Zuria, the Bilbao International Literature Festival, as scheduled. The pandemic prevented the carrying out of the meeting planned under the title *El ensayo empieza aquí*.

The Festival tried to approach the essay beyond its condition as a literary genre, to treat it as a cultural process. And since writing an essay is also reinventing, this oral and face-to-face essay became a written and pre-recorded essay.

Thus, Gutun Zuria 2020 turned into *El Ensayo empieza aquí*, an anthology of articles where the invited authors propose reflections on the reality we are presently living, from their generational, ideological or geographical diversity, in the same way as they would have done in the talks and debates.



Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal
ISBN 978-84-09-22865-2
Pages: 400
Format: 220x270 mm
Languages: Basque, Spanish, English
28€

Mabi Revuelta. Acromática. Una Partida Inmortal

Catalogue of the *Achromatic. An Immortal Game* exhibition by artist [Mabi Revuelta](#), curated by [Susana Blas](#) and co-produced by Azkuna Zentroa (14 October 2020 - 24 January 2021) and Tabacalera Promoción del Arte Madrid (2021). The Project reviews the career of the artist, while also exhibiting *Acromática*, her most recent work. The catalogue completes the project through the texts of Susana Blas, Luís Francisco Pérez and Antonio Gude.

