

**More information:**

www.esbalurd.org

Exhibition dates: 03/11/2017-18/03/2018

Museum Opening Hours:

Tuesday to Saturday: 10 - 20 h

Sundays: 10 -15 h

Mondays closed

ESBALUARD | museu d'art modern
i contemporani de palma



Ibiza-Mallorca: 1950s-1990s. Part one, Don Kunkel and his context

Engaging in historiography beyond names and landmarks, thinking of the collectives, the social movements, the peculiarities of peripheral contexts that forge new synergies, changes in tendencies, steps backwards or forwards. Perceiving the permeable, doubt and intertwined narratives, the horizontal, the detail or the global. At EsBaluard we have set ourselves the goal of rethinking the history of contemporary art on our islands from new optics, moving forward amongst the testimonial (the recordings of Arxiu Balears) and critical theory (case studies and monographic exhibitions based on the collection). In this way, we present, in the Gabinet, an initial phase of Ibiza-Mallorca, prioritizing a series of interpretations of the collectives and groups that evolved on both islands, based on the individual (in this case the figure of the American painter Don Kunkel).

Samples to understand an insular stratigraphy through a comparative analysis of creative processes and situations on the sidelines of contexts that lasted several decades.

In this first sample, as well as coming closer to Don Kunkel, who is now included in the collection thanks to the deposit by the MACBA (Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona), we shall explore his contemporaries and the

situations they experienced over these decades, which saw the simultaneous beginnings of artistic groups like the collective Ibiza 59 and the Tago group in Mallorca.

Don Kunkel (Plainfield, New Jersey, USA, 1933) first came to Ibiza in 1958, after travelling to different European cities –Barcelona, London and Paris–and living in Lima (Peru), where he had his studio and a graphics workshop. An artist trained in painting and life drawing, Kunkel is recognised for his contribution in the field of graphic work and his role in the activation of Ibiza as an artistic centre in the ‘sixties and ‘seventies, along with the American Carl van der Voort (Fort Myers, Florida, 1928-New Haven, Connecticut, 2004) and his gallery dedicated to contemporary art.

His technical mastery in the field of printing, silk screen printing in particular, promoted his collaboration with Taller Ibograp, a space devoted to the editing of graphic work and connected to the Galería van der Voort, where Kunkel exhibited regularly. Associated to the workshop since 1967, he took over the technical direction sometime between 1970 and 1976. At that time, the relationship and mutual work with creators who came to the island as well as others who already originated from it gave rise to a special moment - energetic and steeped in camaraderie around painting and graphic work; these artists include Erwin Bechtold, Rafael Tur Costa or Antoni Marí Ribas “Portmany”.

In the ‘eighties, he resumed contact with his native country. He set up a studio in Pennsylvania in 1985 and kept his residence in Ibiza until 1989, when he settled permanently in New Haven (Connecticut), where he lives today.

The work of Don Kunkel evolved, in the main, around abstraction. After an initial stage of figurative character, in the 1960s he adopted a subtle figuration based on sinuous shapes and compositional simplicity that resulted in geometric abstraction, the axis of his work ever since. Kunkel expresses a language of his own, systematic and meticulous, based on linearity, symmetry and rational order; a style linked to the constructivist and minimalist practices and characterised by experimentation as regards the medium - for the most part paper and cardboard -, an element transformed into “pictorial matter” that strengthens three-dimensionality. From the ‘eighties on, Kunkel moved away from order and symmetry and volume acquired greater prominence in his compositions, centred on investigation of space.

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Documentary materials: Arxiu d’imatge i So Municipal d’Eivissa (AISME), Biblioteca de la Fundació Bartolomé March, Biblioteca Lluís Alemany (Consell de Mallorca), MACE, RTVE, Augusta Kelly, David Van der Voort, Catalina Verdera and Rafael Tur Costa.

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Parallel activities

7th November 2017, 7pm, Aljub

Presentation of the documentary «Dream Songs», the last hippie dream of Ibiza with the presence of the director writer and producer of the documentary, Agustí Vila.

13th March 2018, 7pm, Auditori

Lecture about the artistic context of Ibiza, by Cati Verdera, cultural manager and head of the Van der Voort Gallery.