

ABA art contemporani presents,

Antoni Llena MÓN

Press conference with presence of the artist: Thursday, 22nd of March, 11.00a.m.

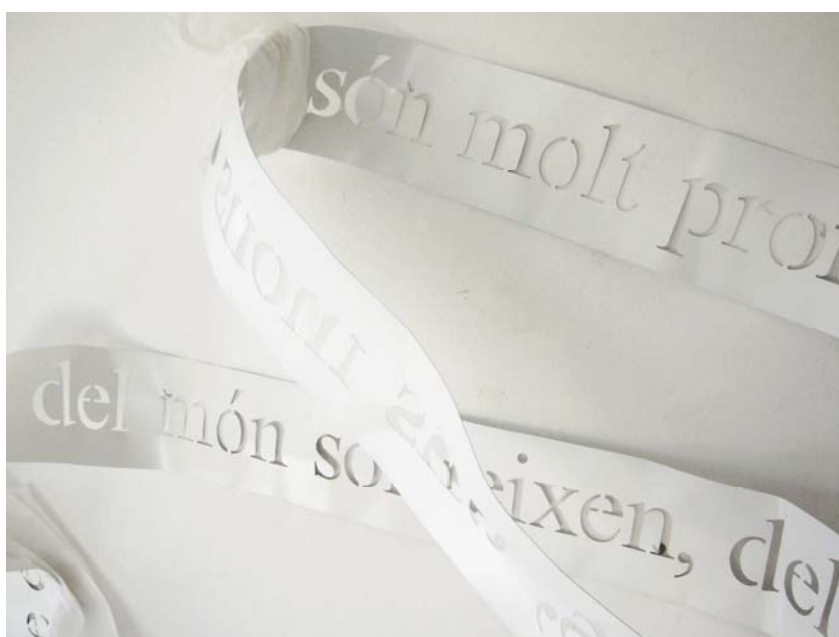
Opening: 24th of March, 11:00a.m.

Exhibition: 24th of March 2007 - 5th of May 2007

ABA Art Contemporani proudly presents the solo exhibition of Antoni Llena (Barcelona, 1942) entitled "Món." ("World") Based upon the poetry of Swiss Robert Walser, Llena unveils his particular vision of existence, and invites us to perceive the beauty that in mere instants, can bind all time. As the artist explains: *"Art is always at limits. It is always a meeting point between a beginning and an end. Beauty at the end, utopia as the beginning... Utopia, because every individual and collective journey has an its' exit of its' labyrinth, this is the intervention. Art, is always perplexing."*

Daily, Llena throws himself towards the unknown grounds. Despite knowing said grounds are uncertain and unpredictable, his courage convinces him the journey is there to be made. In his last exhibition, *"Viatge d'hivern,"* ("Winter Journey") (Galería Toni Tàpies, 2006) Antoni Llena seduces us with small and intimate scenes, objects and elaborate compositions of various materials; paper, wood, stone, sponge, mirror, gold leaf...

Today, his piece entitled "Món" presents a poetic mural conveying the beauty of other worlds... *"profound worlds that escape us like vagabonds"* (from Walser's poem.) Llena presents these verses, engraved into a roll of white aluminum, intertwining them with paper and silk, allowing the piece to project itself onto its' surroundings.



Plastic, cotton, wool, wood, metal, thread, tissue paper, ink, lacquer. . . these are just some of the elements which comprise the work of Antoni Llena. They are simple elements, pure and humble, shouting through their silence...and through their fragility, unite delicacy and balance. Llena guides them with skill; tearing them, sewing them, sticking them, deforming them, cutting them, wrinkling them, staining them, superposing them...

We have recalled some of Llena's previous work: his series *"Escultures Plegades,"* (1965) (*"Crumpled Sculptures"*) which was composed of folded, street-found paper. Llena's *"Escultures Disecadse,"* (1967) (*"Maintained*

Sculptures”) was a series of conserved materials presented in cellophane bags. Neither can we forget the conceptual implications of his first solo exhibition at the Petite Galerie de Lleida (1969) where the artist traced the shadows of his sculptures to the gallery’s walls, and finally presented just that. Llena removed his work, presenting solely the traced silhouettes, which became a testimony to the absence of art.

In “*Món*,” Antoni Llena three-dimensionally paints into space, and delights us with subtle drawings and sculptures mounted in cabinet-like frames. We are offered to partake in a permanent play on noise and silence, tension and balance. To quote the artist, “*all work of art is a manifestation of a conflict...United conflicts are resolved through poetry, yet this resolution only lasts an instant, and it is an instant that must become continual.*”