

TXOMIN BADIOLA. *Malas Formas.*

Presentation to the Media: 14 March 2002, 11:30 a.m.

Opening: 14 March 2002, 7:30 p.m.

Exhibition dates: 15 March to 2 June 2002

Curator: José Lebrero Stals

Produced by: Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona

Malas formas is the most comprehensive exhibition to date of the work produced by Txomin Badiola since 1990, when he moved to New York, where he would spend eight years. It was then when an important change in the formal and conceptual direction of his work started to take place. The exhibition consists of installations which, in addition to sculpture, include other supports such as video, photography and sound, the result of a work process whose outstanding feature is the hybridisation and mixture of languages of different kinds. The process is strongly rooted in late modern forms of artistic specificity and autonomy, although it integrates elements of popular culture such as the photomontage, cinema, television, popular music and the comic.

With Ángel Bados, Pello Irazu, Juan Luis Moraza and María Luisa Fernández, Txomin Badiola (Bilbao, 1957) is one of the leaders of what was called "the new Basque sculpture" in the late seventies. That group of artists focused on a search for the boundaries of late modern formalism and the possibilities of going beyond it self-critically by means of new procedures and modes of artistic production. In that way the members dissociated themselves from the dominant tendencies in the Basque art world of the time: one figurative, close to a certain kind of social realism, and another based on a lyrical abstraction which was used as a source for constructing nationalist myths. The fundamental reference for those artists was the artistic heritage of the Basque sculptor Jorge Oteiza.

Badiola's work draws on other sources, from the films of Jean-Luc Godard, Rainer Werner Fassbinder and Pier Paolo Pasolini to the history of modern architecture and sculpture, Pop Art, club culture, the Russian avantgardes, Malevich's abstraction and underground cinema. Appropriating certain mechanisms of representation from the cinema and the theatre, Badiola constructs everyday situations through the resources of narrative fiction. That method is applied literally in *Malas formas*, which has been designed as a metastructure, in other words, a single installation that operates like a large stage, gathering Badiola's work and providing a new layout for the works presented.

Malas formas is produced in collaboration with the Departamento de Cultura del Gobierno Vasco, and it will travel to the Museo de Bellas Artes de Bilbao (november 2002).

NEXT EXHIBITION AT MACBA: **SONIC PROCESS** (May 3 - July 1, 2002)