

# fundación\_RaC

## La promesa de la política Tania Bruguera

*La Promesa de La Política* (The Promise of Politics) is the exhibition for RAC Foundation created by artist Tania Bruguera. Taking the title from a book of writings by philosopher Hannah Arendt, the artist has made a series of works where she lists events appearing in the press that destabilize the established meaning of some concepts and social figures with concepts used in the book. The purpose is to explain the relationship between philosophy and politics.

The sample is made up of five pieces:

### I. *Isonomy*

The news of the raid and capture of the so-called “Fat Guys Clan,” a gang of drug traffickers in Spain, showed a surprising and paradoxical element: in the news where they were termed as a “supermarket”: “In the room with two women waiters at the bar, they had placed metal posts with ribbons so consumers stood in an ordered queue, similar to that in airports,” according to the head of the Organized Crime and Drugs Unit (UDYCO) group. (...) “Some rooms had been fitted out for drug consumption with posters on the walls reading ‘Smokers Area.’” To maintain the outlet open 24 hours, the clan organized three eight-hour shifts. On the table where sales were made, there was a sign with the indications “workers” should follow in their shifts. It was signed by “the management.”<sup>1</sup>

The work, a white piece of cloth embroidered in black, A3 size, hanging on the wall as a poster, reads: “Nobody knows what his past will be. Signed: The Management.” This expression is normally used in Cuba when a fake past is fashioned for a person by the authorities to make his or her career coincide with the public image they are interested in offering. Also, it expresses a desire for respectability based on the reproduction of entrepreneurial structures.

For more information on the article, see:

[http://www.elpais.com/articulo/madrid/clan/Gordos/queda/bunker/drogas/elpepiespmad/20100225elpmad\\_2/Tes](http://www.elpais.com/articulo/madrid/clan/Gordos/queda/bunker/drogas/elpepiespmad/20100225elpmad_2/Tes)

*Insonomy: equality of law with the idea of distribution, equality of civil and political rights of the citizens*

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<sup>1</sup> *El País*, article “The Fat Clan Loses its Bunker” February 25, 2010, by T. Calleja /D. Borasteros

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## II. *ISASTHENAI*

The day of opening, the members of the public that wanted to pose for the sculpture were portrayed in a clay bust similar to those used to mark the existence of heroes and illustrious figures. The bust existed only for a few minutes, until a new person posed and a new face appeared on the bust. After the opening, the last of the two busts used is kept as proof of the action and the other is preserved in adequate conditions for reuse.

The news of the death of Orlando Zapata Tamayo questioned the idea of hero created by the Cuban Revolution.

For more information on the article, see:

<http://www.elmundo.es/america/2010/02/24/cuba/1266967804.html>

*Isasthenai: do the same*

## III. *DOXA*

The nine-year old daughter of the prince and princess in Japan had to be taken out of school because of the abuse and blows her classmates dealt her. A depressed princess with a battered daughter is not exactly the idea that has lived for years in the imagination of girls who hope to make their lives “happy forever.”

An egg, under the pressure of a blowtorch flame, is on its pedestal.

For more information:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8551868.stm>

Doxa: A Greek word usually translated as “opinion.”

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## **IV. SURPLUSVALUE**

The work is based on a piece of news published on December 2009 on the robbery of the sign at the entry of the concentration camp of Auschwitz. It is the reproduction of the object on a 1:1 scale. The piece, mounted and ready for public intervention, is transformed by the activity during the exhibition.

Note: Please respect safety measures when using the equipment.

For more information:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/mundo/internacional/2009/12/091220\\_0148\\_encuentran\\_auschwitz\\_irm.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/mundo/internacional/2009/12/091220_0148_encuentran_auschwitz_irm.shtml)

*Surplus value: The difference between the value of work done and the usually subsistence wages paid by the employer which forms the basis of capitalist accumulation since it is freely appropriated.*

## **V. PEITHEIN**

A priest who robs the money collected in his parish church to put announcements in Internet on sexual services was the news received by those attending a mass in which he made the confession.

For more information:

<http://www.20minutos.es/noticia/636619/0/cura/robaba/prostitua/>

Peitheim from Peito, the daughter of Hermes and Aphrodite who embodied seduction and persuasion in Greek mythology.