

Press release

PAULA ANTA

Kanzel

Photography

16th of December to the 26th of January, 2018

Opening, 16th of December, 12 am

A Doctor in Fine Art from the Complutense University of Madrid, Paula Anta also holds professional piano qualifications.

She has been awarded many prizes and grants, such as the Premio Aena de Fotografía (Aena Photography Award), the Premio de la Comunidad de Madrid at the Estampa Trade Fair (Community of Madrid Award), the Special Mention Combat Prize Livorno (Italy), amongst others. The grants have taken her to live in Rome, Paris and Frankfurt.

From 2005 to 2015 she has given many master classes and conferences at the Higher School of communication, Image and Sound CEV, in Hochschule für Gestaltung Offenbach (Frankfurt), the Cornell University of Rome, the University School of Art and Entertainment TAI of Madrid, the University of Murcia and the University Francisco of Vitoria. She divides her time between Germany and Spain.

Paula Anta is an artist with a deep sensitivity that she usually expresses through photography; landscape photographs in which she intervenes, creating a link between the natural and the artificial, a very subtle alteration of the landscape that starts with the natural materials: stone, sand, water, dust, natural pigments or in some cases elements such as plastic, PVC, aerosols that contrast with the landscape or with an increasingly denaturalised nature. Reading her reflections about her creative process, we can unravel many of her keys elements: "In relation to my experience, I have seen that I need to link myself to the landscape in order to create, although each project might have a different beginning. In nature you connect to the source; we can calmly observe it. It is a place we belong to and it is essential. There are no distractions in the landscape. This essential place interests me, it attracts me. But its relationship or its link to its opposite also attracts me; to the fictitious, the contrived, with the artificial creation of what human beings are capable of. I think that the human being's capacity to artificially reproduce natural elements is a skill and this skill is also linked to the imagination." (Paula Anta)

Anta has been carrying out photographic series since 2007: *Palmehuset*, *Paraísos Artificiales*, *Rutas Negras*, *Edera*, *L'Architecture des Arbres*, *Hendu* and now the Galería Pilar Serra presents *Kanzeln*, a series carried out in Germany, on a shooting reserve in the town of Walterschen, in the region of Westerwald, a volcanic, rural area where spaces devoted to agriculture and livestock farming can be found, alongside dense forests of oaks, firs and birch trees.

Kanzel means 'hunting hide' in German - huts built for hunting, comparable to a dark room, a window from which you can observe, wait, watch; they are usually located in terms of the natural elements that surround them and the animal runs, their hiding places, paths, their eating places, sleeping and resting places are all taken into account, along with the density of the trees, the flow of the wind, the rivers, the valleys.... The artist made a methodical trip around all the hides located in the landscape, observing them from outside, spending time inside them, faced with a powerful, beautiful, silent landscape, in a wilderness that promotes our getting to know ourselves and leads us to a reflection on life and death, on beauty and violence, on our relationship with nature and with animals, from a position of deep rejection towards the cruelty that hunting means, which has no contribution to conservation or the protection of the environment, nor is it a valid form of animal selection. If only these hides were only ever used again for the view to be recreated in this outside world, in this explosion of life. And we go back to Paula's words: "Perhaps the photographic image makes it easier to bring us closer to the identification of the appearance of things, although we have never inhabited these places. Today it is a language that is closer to us in spite of the fact that we do not know how to cover the complexity of its nature. This is the reason the artist's work is important. Art has the function of raising awareness, but at the same time it is a social act due to the mere fact of being a shared element. And in this sharing, we enter all the options linked to the observation and to the inner being of each artist. We walk through a universe that comes from a link to the interior and when we identify ourselves, when for a second of direct perception, we relate to a whole, we simply realize and we can "see" beyond this."

To request further information and photographs: Tel. 00 34 91 308 15 69 /70 – galeria@pilar Serra.com – www.pilar Serra.com