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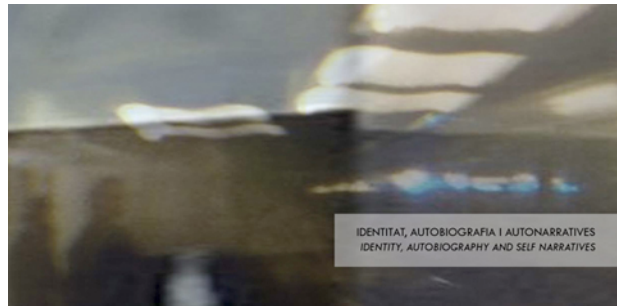
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identity, autobiography and self narratives

XI Small Format international contemporary Art Exhibition

Opening: Thursday 2 August 2012

Exhibition: Friday 3 August - Friday 31 August 2012



IDENTITY, AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND NARRATIONS OF THE SELF **A small inner journey**

When we presented our subject for the starting point of this edition of the Small Format Exhibition, we knew that the idea of self-narration would generate a stimulating inflection in the work of the artists it was addressed to.

What we did not imagine at the time was that the number of works submitted was going to double and that we would be landed with the awkward task of choosing or discarding pieces of "life".

Our original statement said that "etymologically, autobiography means to write about our own life, to say something about the "me-itself", about how we produce our identities when we write about ourselves or about the way we live our lives, proposing the difficult task of doing so in a minimal amount of space, to visualise that essence, fragment or tone that identifies us.

We know that autobiography is a literary genre and that its correlative visual art is self-portraiture, but we feel that to spread the possibilities of representation over the full range of the context of narration has made it possible to generate works of greater richness and complexity.

Much as portraits and biographies, self-portraiture and autobiography are historically akin. When the possible interpretations of biography became wider, the visual field of portraiture also grew, enabling a self-portrait by Rembrandt to acquire a complexity comparable to the literature of his time. However, despite some major precedents such as Saint Augustine, autobiography did not fully develop until Rousseau's Confessions. It was in Confessions that a single text unfolded its full range, from intimate confidences to declarations of the author's own contradictions addressed to society at large, and it was not until the twentieth century that artists have generated a veritable catalogue of viable acts-of-representation in which what is private always takes place within a context. Atlas by Gerhard Richter, or the entire work of Louise Bourgeois, are magnificent