

Núria Güell

Words of Love | 3 april - 17 may 2025

The video essay *Words of Love An essay on passions* and five screens displaying love poems written and read by people who, at one time or another in their lives, have murdered, inflicted violence or risked their lives in the name of an ideal of love is Núria Güell's video installation on view at the Salle Principale gallery until May 17.

The list of Western cultural representations around love and passions would be endless: from Greek mythology and its tragedies, through scholastic Christianity, courtly love, the Golden Age, the Romanticism of the 18th and part of the 19th centuries, to the most popular or alternative cultural expressions of our time, there are witnesses to the damage caused by some idea of love.

In the realm of reality, we continue to suffer because of believers who exterminate others in the name of love for a God; from all the nationalists who continue to throw themselves into mutual destruction for love of some homeland or nation; adolescents who interpret jealous traits as signs of true love; the mother who kills her children so that they do not suffer; revolutionaries who give their lives or take them for the love of some idea of social revolution; or the lover who decides to kill his beloved (or vice versa) upon realizing that he is losing his love.

How many dramaturgically pre-established situations have we experienced in our stories of love? What pleasures or ghosts are hidden behind the mask of beliefs about the ideal of love? Could it be that the main cause of social conflicts is not hatred but an excess of blind love? What effects would the de-idealisation of love have on social order? And on us? What is the responsibility of culture in all these paradoxes?

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thursday - saturday | 2 - 7 pm
and by appointment
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