



## **The Han Nefkens Foundation presents Maya Watanabe at La Casa Encendida as part of ARCOMadrid 2019**

***Liminal*, Maya Watanabe**

**Han Nefkens Foundation – ARCOMadrid Award 2018**

**La Casa Encendida | 27 February – 31 March 2019 | Preview: 26 February**

As part of ARCOMadrid 2019, the Han Nefkens Foundation will present a solo exhibition by Maya Watanabe (Lima, 1983). Following the announcement of ARCOMadrid's 2019 country of honour, the Han Nefkens Foundation – ARCOMadrid Award 2018 is aimed at emerging artists of Peruvian origin or nationality with an international perspective. The award enables contemporary artistic production in the field of video art. During ARCOMadrid 2018, Maya Watanabe was awarded the Han Nefkens Foundation - ARCOMadrid Award to support the production of her latest upcoming video artwork *Liminal*, which will be premiered at La Casa Encendida, coinciding with ARCOMadrid 2019. The work will be presented following this at the Museo de Arte de Lima- MALI, in August 2019.

Maya Watanabe's *Liminal* will explore questions on the multitude of responses to grieving, identifying and representing, forming both a private and political point of view. Maya Watanabe was unanimously chosen by the award's jury for her professionalism and ability to develop complex issues in a profound and coherent manner and in addition for her focused and meticulous use of advanced technologies. Throughout the past four years, the artist has worked on a number of hugely ambitious projects, including *Earthquakes* at Kyoto Art Center (2017) and *Sceneries* at Palais de Tokyo during The Festival Do Disturb (2015), which notably create a personal and innovative response to identity and language.

The Han Nefkens Foundation – ARCOMadrid Award aims to provide a means for increasing contemporary artistic production in the field of video art. Maya Watanabe

received a €15,000 fund to produce *Liminal*, which will also include the participation of the Mondriaan Fonds.

---

*Liminal* responds to the 6,000 yet to be excavated mass graves and more than 16,000 people still missing from Peru's internal armed conflict and who today, almost 20 years after the official end of the genocide, are still waiting to be identified.

In order to grieve, it is important to find the remains of the disappeared person. Grieving is not only a personal experience of loss and pain, but also a way of conveying the suffering of others, and acknowledging that a person's life and death matter. Clandestine graves and enforced disappearances intervene as a political tool not only to determine which lives are eliminable, but also to differentiate who can be veiled and who cannot.

During an exhumation, the remains found enter a limbo between "disappeared" status and forensic analysis that restores identity, determines legal death and confers the possibility of mourning. *Liminal* is situated in that state, on the threshold of the recognisable and the representable, between being a non-subject and being recognised as a subject.

Born in Lima in 1983, Maya Watanabe is based between Amsterdam and Madrid. She works mainly with video installations. Her work has been exhibited at: Palais de Tokyo, Matadero Madrid, Kadist Art Foundation SF, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Lima, and Kyoto Art Center among others. She has been featured in festivals like Videobrasil, LOOP, FILE, Transitio\_MX, Madrid Abierto, Havana Film Festival, and Beijing Biennale. She has also collaborated as a set designer and audiovisual art director for theatre plays performed in Peru, Spain, Austria and Italy.

---

### **Han Nefkens Foundation**

The Han Nefkens Foundation is a private, non-profit organisation set up in Barcelona in 2009. It focuses on the production of video art, with the aim of connecting people through art across the world, collaborating with renowned international art institutions. The Foundation's founding values have defined it from the beginning as an innovative and forward-thinking model: a production hub that oversees and promotes contemporary creation from the very first moments until the final presentation. Positioned as a platform for video artists to advance their careers, its main activity is to commission new works through its awards and grants on an international level.

## **Current projects at the Han Nefkens Foundation**

### **Production Awards**

Han Nefkens Foundation - LOOP Art Fair Video Art Award (Barcelona, Spain)

Han Nefkens Foundation - ARCO Video Art Award (Madrid, Spain)

Han Nefkens Foundation - BUK Museum Korean Video Art Award (Seoul, Korea)

Han Nefkens Foundation - CAC Award Latin-American Video Art (Quito, Ecuador)

### **Production Grants**

Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn: Vaijko Chachkhiani

Manifesta 2018, Palermo: Erkan Özgen

Gwangju Biennial: Heecheon Kim

Fundació Antòni Tápies, Barcelona: Erkan Özgen

Fundació Suñol, Barcelona: Arash Nassiri

Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam: Dinh Q. Lê

Centre Cívic Ateneu Fort Pienc, Barbara Sánchez Barroso

Liverpool Biennial: Aslan Gaisumov

CAC Quito, Ecuador: Sojung Jun

---

### **Press contact:**

#### **Rhiannon Pickles at Pickles PR**

Email: [rhiannon@picklespr.com](mailto:rhiannon@picklespr.com) | Tel: +31 615 821202

#### **Enrichetta Cardinale Ciccotti at Pickles PR**

Email: [enrichetta@picklespr.com](mailto:enrichetta@picklespr.com) | Tel: +34 656 956672