



ESTER PEGUEROLES CASTELLET

A LA FILA 7 (To the 7th Row)

7 March - 9 May 2020. The exhibition opens 7 March, 12pm

Through the series *To the 7th Row*, Ester Pegueroles (Castellón, 1970) continues with her research on what could be defined as a photographic typology. In her previous works, she made a record of the distance between the sentimental evocation and some of the images she had previously captured of landscapes described by different people. With her new approach, she places her camera on the 7th row in several playhouses. Because of its distance to the stage, for some viewers this specific row represents a symbolically unique place from where one can enjoy being a voyeur but at the same time feel protected from any rupture of the fourth wall. Whereas in the previous series the prisoners retraced places that had left a mark in their past, in her current work the artist portrays another type of prisons, those in which viewers are in need of the fiction that would compensate them for their everyday life. In both works, loneliness and the desire to escape produce a sort of alignment, leading us to interpret this work as a step forward. This is a creation marked by the intimacy and its “political” nature. The projects have emerged from microhistories about prisoners, defeated in war, or unknown “spectators”. All of them have been treated out of modesty, renouncing the obvious for the sake of the metaphor.

In the series of photographs that make up *To the 7th Row*, the absent presence of actors and viewers is noticeable. Different stage designs are filled up with settings, captured by the camera a few hours before the performance. Once illuminated and decorated, the setting becomes the spotlight facing the practical purpose of the storyline. Here, the image of the empty patio stalls gains relevance, under its overhead light, asking for the presence of the audience. Stage has no meaning without actors or spectators. However, through the camera lens, the prominence is given to the photographed images of the settings. From that moment, the photographs require a different kind of public along other spaces to be exposed. Over the transfer of roles, the

series unveils both the potential and scarcity that go along with any art creation. *To the 7th Row* represents an opportunity to reflect on the origin of the image, on the theatre's function, the artist's role, on our own role as viewers in relation to the place we expect or wish to fulfil and the one we finally accomplish, on those photographs that need to be discovered by someone who will look at them, praise or turn them down. Beyond all this, Pegueroles outlines her work about absence, the urge of recognition and eventually the solitude that protect us.

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