

WEDNESDAY, 30 JULY 2008

## FERRAN BARENBLIT NEW DIRECTOR AT 2 DE MAYO IN MADRID

Barcelona is in a constant flux. This summer has been specially hot since the warning that Barcelona could loose it's only Contemporart Art Center if CASM was conceived to be the one playing this role.

In Catalonia it's almost impossible to skip certain obsolete nationalistic ideas and to guarantee an independent exhibition programme if directing a public institution. Unless your plan is to please the government you will find here a big number of obstacles on top.

CASM is now lost. It won't be closed but basically they will only keep the name.

CASM has a new director that certainly will follow the dictates of those who selected him. It was not ,as you can guess, a selection based on his profile or capabilities to develope a programme. A finger-based selection method was used. It seems ,from what i read in the papers related to the above, that Contemporary Art is for minories and therefore they will work with a completely different approach. It's necessary to attract a wider public. Art and politics are too close in Spain when dealing about public institutions management, their functions and direction. We are about to start a new act, the sinking of Barcelona. Politicians were too worried that CASM was not very popular , numbers are always more strong for them than ideas when they hit their desks. This just hide more sinister targets.

Ferran Barenblit who has been directing CASM for five years has been now appointed director of brand new Madrid art center called 2 de Mayo, opened this year. I am sure he has done it right taking this new job. He has been selected among other candidates that applied to an international call for this position.

Madrid has a leading role in Spain art scene these days since in Barcelona and thanks to this terrible politicians we are entering a dark period. Besides that Catalonia will have a pavillion in Venice, isn't it ironic? They will be soon enthusiastic with the photos, flags and all the media fuzz. Nobody seems to care about art here. But we do.

You are welcome to browse the internet to be update about all these. It's a long history that has just started. Barcelona is loosing people and going backwards at high speed.

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