



ENRIC ANSESA VERSUS 'CATALAN HILLS'

By Ricard Planas*



To represent and imagine ideas through black marks that symbolise both mountains of knowledge and magical mountains: this has been the structural objective of *Catalan Hills*, a work created by the Catalan artist Enric Ansesa to form the first cover of *Catalan International View*. They are the mountains that have given us our identity and whose blurred outlines represent the abstraction of a thought, concentrated in a series of brushstrokes generated by the hand of a creative man trying to articulate something superior to himself. It is a painting that is born from white and from white it becomes black, its opposite or counterpart. The colours also move, with the utmost subtlety, almost imperceptibly: the gold, the red and yellow of the *senyera* (the Catalan flag) and the blue of the European Union, other reference points placed with extreme deliberateness. *Catalan Hills* is a work on paper that forms part of the latest series by this artist born in Girona in 1945. It is a non-representative piece that portrays the essence of universal thought with a dose of extreme reality.

TESA

SELECTED BIOGRAPHY

He has a deep conceptual and theoretical sense formed in the confrontation between the radicalism of a concept and the respect for historical knowledge. He adds an extreme sensitivity to a functional sense. His work is conceived through the use and the investigation of black and its interrelations. He uses black like an energy field from which calligraphic elements, signs, textures, matter and collages arise. The reductionist elements alongside a rounded, finished, well taken-care-of execution, in the limited spaces of the work or in the limitless space of the installation, create a deep density of extremely conceptual sensitivity. It places us in a reflective state rather than in the presence of the work. He has been present in the process of democratic recovery and in



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the normalisation of the Catalan identity. The artist is a founder member of the Democratic Assembly of Artists of Girona (*ADAG*, in Catalan) and the Catalan Association of Visual Artists (*AAVC*), among others. Alongside Faixó, Fuses i Viader he made and directed the Colour Project as part of the redevelopment of houses on the river Onyar in Girona. He also developed an industrial project involving new codes for colours. His work is held in both public and private collections in Europe and America. He is a point of reference for Catalan art and is considered one of the maximum exponents of the 'hidden generation'.

*RICARD PLANAS

(GIRONA, 1976). JOURNALIST, ART CRITIC AND CULTURAL PROMOTER. STUDIED PHILOLOGY AND THE HISTORY OF ART AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GIRONA, IN 1999 HE FOUNDED THE MAGAZINE BONART, DEDICATED TO THE CONTEMPORARY ART SCENE IN THE CATALAN COUNTRIES. MORE RECENTLY HE CREATED AND DIRECTED THE CATALAN ART FAIR INART IN 2005 AND 2006. HAS WORKED AS THE CURATOR FOR EXHIBITIONS BY IMPORTANT ARTISTS SUCH AS ARRANZ-BRAGO, LAMAZARES, FORMIGUERA, CUIXART, ANSESA AND GRAU-GARRIGA. RICARD HAS COLLABORATED WITH *Ona Catalana*, *Catalunya Ràdio*, *iCatfm* AND *Onda Rambla* RADIO STATIONS. HAS ALSO WORKED FOR THE *Diari de Girona*, *El Punt* AND *El Mundo* NEWSPAPERS AMONG OTHERS.

