

<https://esteticapedagogica.wordpress.com/2020/02/14/the-other-voice-kathryn-hart/?fbclid=IwAR0Izm70cgKC5BwHOjuX4EOLNbWEdSz89XJYelFYZ8BX7al6E1-AlbDTgVM>

## Estètica pedagògica

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# "the other voice" Kathryn Hart

"*the other voice*" by Kathryn Hart. Sala Coll Alas (exposition space), Gandia.

Meeting with the art students (Maria Enríquez and Escolàpies, Gandia)



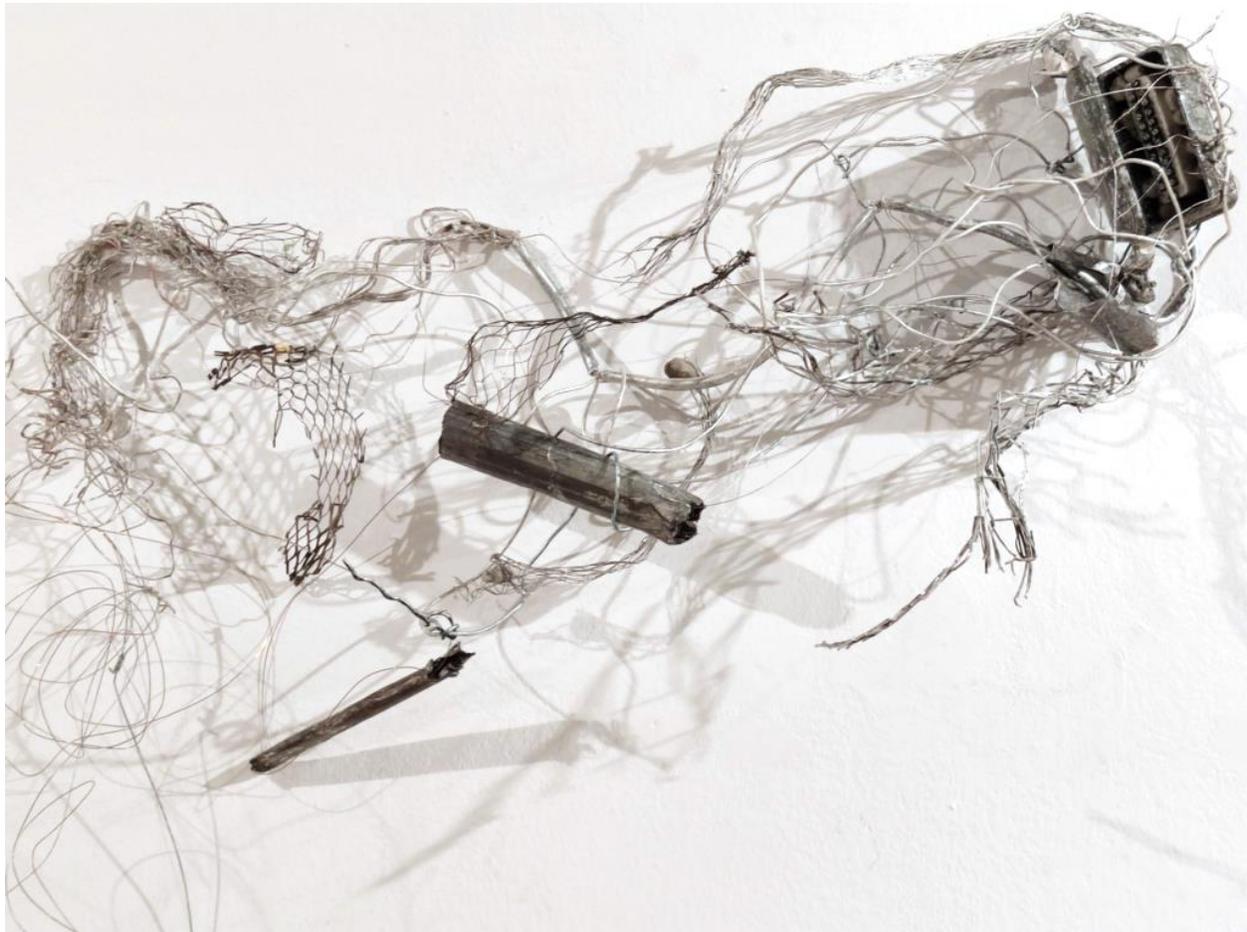
Art room "Coll Alas" Gandia

All the pieces in the installation interact through the art room like a network paying homage to the lights and shadows of the strong women who lived in the Renaissance. In this exhibition, the artist thought especially about the historical women who belong to the Borgia family linked to the city of Gandia. Among them, we can mention Lucrecia Borja and Maria Enríquez.

Despite the fact that we can observe a restrictive range of colors, we could say it becomes lively and colorful because it transmits a peaceful and relaxed feeling which helps the viewer to go deeper into the meaning that the artist suggests in this work.

This is an opportunity to think of what we believe is important in our society: the criticism, the reflection, the way of living... that is what the classics did and what Kathryn Hart proposes speaking about the women in the Renaissance. I personally think this is the most important task that art has or its goal in society. The artist encourages us through her work to go far away from these times of superficial approach to knowledge. And another aspect to take into account is that the entire installation also invites us to look inside ourselves, what can we do in a personal way where everyone has to build an interior world for themselves. We could say, the more we do it the better we will feel.

The shadows imply community. The woman has a public voice, she is not anybody's property. But this voice, what's more, transforms itself in rumor. Everything is weaved and the message spreads everywhere. An embryonic effect, let's say, organic. Everything becomes transformed. The knots have an important effect on the installation, a scientific meaning, transmitted from her father, a surgeon. Through a piece that Kathryn titles *Mother Tongue*, she cheers the students on to enrich and interpret it. We must fight against negativity and stereotypes. In this sense, people inside the installation interact with photographs in negative where they can be reflected.



*Piece "Mother Tongue"*

It is an opportunity to be present and live a first-hand experience seeing the connections between the students, from secondary school in Gandia, and Kathryn Hart, the artist. Moreover, if we pay attention carefully, we will recognize the materials Kathryn has used as materials that belong to our cultural context and environment: recycled objects, ink, iron, resins, sand from the beach and so on. Amanda Cerdà was the person in charge to translate Kathryn's words to the students. If it had not been for her help the session could not have worked successfully.

The idea everybody was told has to do with creating a joyful place in the art room rather than a traditional artistic action. The students will be able to create in situ something new to complete the piece thanks to a second and last session. Remember that the exhibition consists of a total installation which occupies the room completely.

The last sense of the installation is to be constructed by the viewer. It is a social process that mixes up life and a certain period of time, the Renaissance. And all that becomes part of the viewer's life as well. They participate in the production of the artwork, in the process Kathryn Hart engaged all of us in a continuous narrative.

There is no doubt whatsoever that meetings and activities like these ones always sum and bring ideas to encourage and motivate everybody. Anyway, having said that, this complicity needs to believe in their possibilities and be concrete in real actions, step by step, but with conviction. We are looking forward to the second session to see the final result and the complete piece with all the materials and ideas the students will propose.

My background as a sociologist is always present in all the approaches that I make to try to understand contemporary art. The artistic meaning is often a response to something and something is often a problem. In this way, the answer is never a single answer, never. We must explore a variety of perspectives on what art can do today. Contemporary art lets us experience the world from other perspectives. The works usually present ideas rather than solutions, and this exhibition in particular opens a window related to making people attracted to the art exposition space "Coll Alas" based on meetings, speeches, students' activities and so on...



|Students from Maria Enríquez and ~~Escolàpies~~ with Kathryn Hart, Coll Alas, Gandia

Contemporary art helps our community to show and make visible the social problems we have to face as a free and democratic society, and in this proposal in particular, Kathryn Hart stresses the social and vital civic role of women in our western societies that is not completed yet. So if we take for granted that an artist's action implies a political action we must not forget fighting so as not to allow anybody remains behind. Because if we accept the fact that not everybody deserves the same right to be equal we will become an unworthy society.

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Finally, we could say that Kathryn Hart, like many other contemporary artists, seeks to provoke through her work an interior dialogue with ourselves and to open a debate with our community. These experiences which come from artistic works create new relations with the public in order to make more understandable our own lives and the society we live in.

The gift that Kathryn Hart has given to Gandia's citizens could end like a dream which says: "I'm still here. Will you remember me when I'm gone?"

Salvador Ferrer Alemany  
Teacher and sociologist

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Sóc educador al CRA Riu Vernissa (Benicolet, Almiserà i Llocnou de Sant Jeroni). Em vaig formar en la UNED i en la Universitat de València, en Ciències Polítiques i Sociologia. La meua tasca professional i vital gira al voltant de l'educació. Sóc un apassionat de l'art contemporani, el qual he utilitzat en la meua tasca en el dia a dia, tant a l'escola com en les meues reflexions i pensaments quotidians.

**"the other voice"** 23 January – 20 March, 2020. Sala Coll Alas, Gandia, Spain