Adrià Julià and Débora Antscherl

Attempted Translations
A Means of Passing the Time and Other Projects (Creative Presentation)

Incorporating a spectrum of media, ranging from live interpretations of printed scripts to a filmed Basque dance performance, Julià and Antscherl’s presentation explored the relationship between the visual and auditory registers of language.

Image 1: Text
Conceptual artist Adrià Julià uses a variety of translators for many a language and medium, on a need basis. Through it all, he hashes it out with translation coordinator Débora Antschel to decide what to translate and what to leave as is, to determine the languages at play, and to decipher and identify linguistic registers: to successfully re-transmit sometimes a fragment, sometimes the totality, of a piece in a different and chosen language. Because of the enormous scope of something like language—no less—in the visual arts, media translators have taken to heart our communicative enterprise while being thrown into the combined theory/practice-driven ring of specialized disciplines—in this case, contemporary art—always seeking to perfect some acrobatic gesture of adjusted proportions.

Our talk at the conference consisted of one short audiovisual presentation followed by a conversation discussing our understanding of the evolving role of media translation in our combined practices. Up for discussion, for example, was how a chain of translations (adaptations, digressions) can or should be provoked in one single originating work: a case in point, Julià’s film installation *A Means of Passing the Time*. From theater to film to scripted sculptures to installation (textual-architectural)—and vice versa—*A Means of Passing the Time* intently navigates and transfers meaning between acts of watching/hearing and reading, center-staging and omission, always minding the tools arbitrating these linguistic-cultural transactions as much as the transactions themselves.
Adrià Julià has exhibited professionally at local and international venues for the past twelve years. His most recent solo exhibitions have been hosted by LA><ART, Los Angeles; Galería Soledad Lorenzo, Madrid, Spain; The Room Gallery, Irvine; Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach; Artists Space, New York; Sala Rekalde, Bilbao, Spain; Associates, London; and Palau de la Virreina, Barcelona, Spain. Julià is a grantee of Art Matters, American Center Foundation, Fundación Arte y Derecho-Vegap, Institut Ramon Llull and EDAC. In 2002, he was awarded the Altadis Prize.

For the past fifteen years Débora Antscherl has been translating a variety of media. Her subtitles and captions have been featured on New Line Cinema, Fox, Universal and Warner Bros. products, as well as those for many other large studios, and her translations have been commissioned by the Barcelona-based Tusquets Editorial, the Montebemos Cultural Center in Vitoria, Basque Country, Spain, and Apartamento Magazine in Barcelona, Spain. She works on a continuous basis with conceptual artists such as Adrià Julià, Kaoru Katayama, Minerva Cuevas, CW Winter, Tracey Rose and Daniel Martinez, and is the translation specialist for art galleries The Project in New York and the recently closed MC in Los Angeles.