

# GALERÍA ESPACIO MÍNIMO

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Artist: **BENE BERGADO**

Exhibition Title: *Hom@*

Exhibition Dates: **April 9th to May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010**

Private View: **Friday, April 9th, at 20:00**



*Hom@* is **BENE BERGADO**'s fourth exhibition at **Espacio Minimo** Gallery and is made up of five sculptural works with which the artist continues the work process she has been developing in the recent years.

The museum taxonomies (from the Greek τάξις, taxis "ordering", and νόμος, nomos, "norm" or "rule") understood as a system of classification with arbitrary conventions, are used by the artist to organize a series of bodies and open structures that include skeletons, cages, utensils, fragments of home interiors etc.

The titles of three of the works in the exhibition make reference to three different types of "homo": *Homo Sentimentalis*, *Homo Capitalensis* and *Homo Sostenibilis*. These are three of the many possible types of that could exist in a hypothetical museum of contemporary human beings.

The work titled *Homo Sentimentalis* is based on the skeleton of a Goliath frog (the largest from in the world) up-scaled to a human dimension. It carries a crown which is a golden bronze cage, based on an earlier work from 2002.

The work *Homo Capitalensis* is created from the thorax of a human skeleton melted into a hard pool with one of its shoulder blades sticking out of its spine, creating thus a the shape of a shark fin.

Utensilios de *Homo Sostenibilis* is a work made up of a group of laquered bronze plates. Mirroring the visual style of traditional golden decorative friezes, these carry inscriptions of international symbols for toxic, radioactive and biological

hazards. Each plate has bite marks where parts are missing. For its part *Cabeza de Homo Sostenibilis* seems materially similar to the previous work yet we find that inside, instead of bronze, we find it has been crafted with recycled plastic residues.

The last works in the exhibition are *Casa de Fieras* and the first work in her new series *Habitats Naturales* which kicks off a new body of work. The work shows a section from a real home where the skeletal remains of a small humanoid being lie near a sealed trapdoor. The title makes reference to the 19th Century name for what are now our zoos.

The starting points for each of these works are very different to each other. They emerge from desires, personal and formal interests. Many of the works have a slow production process which gives them time to contaminate each other.

The museum system of classification allows the artists to give the group of works a sense of order and reasoning.



**BENE BERGADO** (Salamanca, 1963), graduated in Fine Art at Universidad del País Vasco. In 1987 she was awarded the Artistic Creation Scholarship from Diputación Foral de Vizcaya and she was Professor at the Fine Art Department of the Universidad del País Vasco from 1987 to 1997. She currently lives and works in Madrid.

She has exhibited at international galleries and institutional spaces such as Sala Carlos III of the Universidad Pública de Navarra in Pamplona, the Palacio de Abrantes de Salamanca or BILBAO Arte in Bilbao, and has taken part in important collective shows such as Muestra de Arte Joven (1992) at Museo Español de Arte Contemporáneo de Madrid, Distancia Cero (1994) at Centro de Arte Santa Mónica de Barcelona, Gure Artea (1996) at Sala Rekalde in Bilbao, Procesos (1997) Festival Internacional de Lima, Perú, Como nos vemos. Imágenes y arquetipos femeninos (1998) Centro Cultural Tecla Sala, Hospitalet (Barcelona), Trans Sexual Express (1999) BILBAO Arte, Bilbao, PASION. Diseño español (2002), travelling exhibition in Spain and Germany, Imágenes de mujer en la plástica española del siglo XX (2003) Museo Pablo Serrano, Zaragoza, Indisciplinados (2003) MARCO. Museo de arte contemporáneo de Vigo, Vete a tu habitación (2003) Casa Encendida, Madrid, Contemporary Art. Castilla y León (2005) White Box, New York, Dibujando al revés (2006) Centro Cultural Montehermoso de Vitoria, Para todos los públicos (2006) Sala Rekalde, Bilbao, Existencias (2007) MUSAC. Museo de arte contemporáneo de Castilla y León, León, INCÓGNITAS. Cartografías del arte contemporáneo en Euskadi (2007) Museo Guggenheim, Bilbao, Supraficciones (2007) Fundación Caixa, Lleida, Esculturismo (2008) Sala de la Comunidad de Madrid, Alcalá 31, Madrid... Además, ha participado en distintas ediciones de ferias internacionales de arte contemporáneo como ARCO (Madrid), FRIEZE ART FAIR (Londres), CIGE (Beijing), SHcontemporary (Shanghai), ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH (Miami), ART CHICAGO (Chicago), ARTISSIMA (Turín), ART FORUM BERLIN (Berlín), ART BRUSSELS (Bruselas), THE GRAMERCY INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART FAIR (New York, Los Angeles y Miami)...

Her work is in the collections of, amongst others, Banco de España in Madrid, MUSAC (Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León) in León, Museo ARTIUM in Vitoria, Fundación BILBAO Arte in Bilbao, Diputación Foral de Vizcaya, Comunidad Autónoma de Murcia, Instituto de la Juventud in Madrid, Consejo Superior de Deportes...

**For further information or images please do not hesitate to contact the gallery**