

**Martín Vitaliti**

***Silly Symphony***

28/10 – 15/1/2023

***Dive and Immersion***

**Exhibition series at Espai 13 of the Fundació Joan Miró**

28 October 2022 – 15 January 2023

Series curated by Pere Llobera, in collaboration with Martina Millà, head of exhibitions at the Fundació Joan Miró

With support from Banco Sabadell Foundation

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## **Press Release**

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### **Martín Vitaliti closes this season's exhibition series at Espai 13 with *Silly Symphony***

**In the basement gallery of the Fundació Joan Miró, Vitaliti proposes an audiovisual installation that centres on recurrence and repetition in American animation production processes from the early 1930s.**

**The artist intervenes in a fragment of these animations, where the animators reused certain drawings to optimise the production line and maximise benefits.**

***Silly Symphony* is the final proposal of *Dive and Immersion*, an exhibition series at Espai 13 for the 2022 season, presented at Fundació Joan Miró with support from Banco Sabadell Foundation. Curated by Pere Llobera, the project has focussed on the current state of pictorial practice through four exhibitions by artists from the local scene, representing the vast diversity of languages being played out in the Barcelona context.**

**Barcelona, 28 October 2022.** The *Silly Symphonies* were a series of short animated films produced by Walt Disney from 1929 to 1939, during the so-called Golden Age of traditional animation, which began with the advent of synchronised sound. These pieces had no recognisable characters, though they became the testing ground for Disney's later feature-length animations. They represent industry innovation of the time, with an approach that made it possible to manage story lines and characters with greater freedom.

Sharply divergent from current digital techniques, these key shorts in the history of animation were the result of hours of craft-based work, organised along massive production lines. The army of illustrators, with their pencils and paper, was mostly composed of women. The popularity of the Disney shorts led the studio to exploit the system of looped animation to optimise production and maximise benefits.



For *Dive and Immersion*, Martín Vitaliti's starting point is the appropriation of these cartoons from the 1930s, as he centres on the extreme exploitation of the chain of production in the early animated film industry. Vitaliti's *Silly Symphony* is an audiovisual installation that focuses on these mechanisms of repetition, accentuating their tragic, alienating aspects. The piece is based on the simultaneous projection of a selection of these film sequences, here used recursively. The artist has digitally drawn over them, photogram by photogram, adding a rotating light that charges each image with a particular temporality, referring to the working day of the illustrators themselves.

In the words of Pere Llobera, curator of the exhibition, Vitaliti posits a disturbing, atmospheric experience, close to the nightmarish oddness visitors feel when they "realise they are getting close to something like a web of screens, where a message is being orchestrated that is far less agreeable than what it first had seemed. [...] They are confronted with mechanisation, and are unable to stop, reminiscent of those wheels in hamster cages which at first make you laugh when you see the creature inside, then eventually end up irritating you."

## Activities related to the exhibition

### ***Inbetweeners***

Sunday 18 December 2022, at 11 am

Family activity

Family workshop, dedicated to creating drawings and sound in similar ways to the earliest animations of American industry in the 1930s.

Images and press material at: [www.fmirobcn.org/premsa](http://www.fmirobcn.org/premsa) and the link [bit.ly/ImmersióEspai13](https://bit.ly/ImmersióEspai13). Follow the activities of Espai 13 on social media with the tag [#ImmersióEspai13](https://twitter.com/ImmersióEspai13).

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