On Translation is a series of works that explore questions of transcription, interpretation and translation.

From language to codes
From silence to technology
From subjectivity to objectivity
From agreement to wars
From private to public
From semiology to cryptography

The role of translation / translators as a fact, visible / invisible

Muntadas, project notes

On Translation is the most recent project in the series developed by Antoni Muntadas under the generic title On Translation. Begun in Helsinki in 1995, this group of twenty-seven works analyses the concept of ‘translation’ from a wide-ranging perspective, which tackles linguistic, economic, political and cultural issues.
In *On Translation: Museum*, Muntadas approaches the concept of translation as an internal debate with the museum-institution itself, focusing on the way it represents and interprets a work which is located in quite different situations and contexts. The result of this model of association between the artist and MACBA has taken the form of a project with six complementary parts:

**On Translation: Museum - Interpretation** is a structure designed by Enric Franch situated in the Museum atrium, which provides an opportunity to explore each of the twenty-seven projects that make up the *On Translation* series. This is also the first 'translation' the Museum has done of these works. The presentation device consists of documentary materials generated by Muntadas during the evolution of each work and an outline explaining each one, presented as a kind of textual X-ray structured around six categories or items.

**On Translation: Museum - Presentation** is located in the adjacent rooms. This is a collection of works from the *On Translation* series side by side with earlier ones done by Muntadas over his career, based on four major topics: architecture, media, city and museum. *So, The Last Ten Minutes* (1976-1977) and *Emissió/Recepció* (1974-2002) analyse the way in which media mechanisms shape individual experience; *Exposició* (1985-1987) is a generic presentation in an exhibition room, expressively highlighting the display and representation devices which are typical of spaces of this kind; *The Board Room* (1987) recreates the institutional and corporate typology of such a room to tackle the various mythologies of power (religious, economic, political and media) and, lastly, *Ciutat Museu* (1991) questions the value of architecture as spectacle and a factor in the tourist business in the city.

Some projects from the *On Translation* series in the Barcelona version have been included, such as *On Translation: The Games* (1996), which investigates the figure of the translator in the context of the Olympic Games in Atlanta; *On Translation: El aplauso* (1999-2002), which analyses the way in which the media act as a filter for the translation of violence across its full spectrum; *On Translation: La mesa de negociación* (1998-2002), a metaphor for the translation and interpretation of reality from the world of telecommunications and the economy; and lastly, a new triptych in the series *On Translation: The Audience*, in this case done for the city of Barcelona, consisting of an itinerant panel at the entrance to the Museum.

**On Translation: The Audience** is a workshop directed by Muntadas and Ramon Parramon, in association with the Master’s Degree in Design, Public Space at Elisava Design College. The workshop aims to set up a forum for discussion and generate ideas about the state of town-planning in Barcelona. Internationally famous for the urban model promoted in the eighties, present changes in Barcelona are polarised in the Besòs area along the shoreline and along the extension of the main avenue, Diagonal, towards the sea, with a view to the Universal Forum of Cultures in 2004, an event which for some people is directly related to the last large scale town-planning and building operation within the city perimeter. And so a project originating from an exhibition is transformed into a form of intervention in the public debate about the future of the city.

**On Translation: Public Space. From Glòries to Besòs. Urban change and public space in the city of Barcelona** is a workshop done for the future of the city of Barcelona. The work points up the different ways we have of perceiving the same image according to the medium used and the context it is set in.

**On Translation: Web** is in the on-line projects space www.macba.es, designed by Ricardo Iglesias, and puts forward another interpretation of the series. It presents part of the documentation on *On Translation* with formats, materials and structures, the idea being to adapt —translate— them to the specific medium of the net.

**On Translation: The Publication** is an independent interpretation, the result of the work between the museum, Editorial Actar and the artist. It is a collection of documentary materials related to each *On Translation* project, as well as critical articles by different authors, and texts by the contributors who worked on the different projects.

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