

# DANI MARTI

## BOOK OF MIRACLES

19 JULY - 13 AUGUST

ARC  
ONE



Dani Marti's florid weaves of ropes, feathers and beads are immensely seductive in their methodical mastery. For his fifth solo exhibition at Arc One, *Book of Miracles*, Dani intensifies his sensuous approach to portraiture. Tactile and opulent, these intimately personal allegories capture the essence of two individuals – Joni Waki and Enrike Sarda Valls. These poetic installations of everyday objects reconstruct Dani's recollections of his subjects detailing common experiences and behaviours.

Internationally well-known for video works that illuminate private moments, Marti actively intervenes in his subject's life by establishing an intimate relationship with them. It has become a hallmark of Dani's oeuvre that he spends months to years, observing and interacting with characters whose experiences are translated into unconventional portraits. Employing his charm to get close to people, Marti captures a spectrum of emotions in his subjects, which are then transformed into codified woven portraits and/or video works. The ambiguous nature between the artist and his subject is never defined and the relationships oscillate between art and voyeurism, friendship and exploitation, intimacy and performance.

There is an exchange between the methods of representation that explores the fallacy of portraiture as an act of true representation. While the video work is a literal representation of the relationship between Enrike Sarda Valls and his butler in his lavish abode, there is nothing that hints at the identity of Dani's muses in the phallic double headed beaded sculpture, the cascading feathers suspended from the ceiling and the expansive shimmering road reflectors on steel. Belying the clean and obsessive rigidity of the woven works are tales of lust, loneliness, confessions and fantasies. It is this abstraction of representation that addresses the complexities of identity.

*Dani Marti was born in Barcelona, Spain. He spends his time divided between Australia, Spain and Scotland. Since 1998, Marti has held over 25 solo exhibitions. Recent group exhibitions include - Let the Healing Begin, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane (2011) and Social Documents: The Ethics of Encounter, Stills Gallery, Edinburgh (2010); Vocal Thoughts, Contemporary Art Center of South Australia, Adelaide, SA, (2010); Cinema X: I like to Watch, Museum of Contemporary Art, Toronto (2010). Selected collections include the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; The University of Queensland Art Museum, Brisbane and Art Bank, Sydney; Chartwell Collection, Auckland City Art Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand; University of Wollongong, New South Wales; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra. In 2012 Hatje Cantz will be publishing a monograph on Dani Marti.*

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