



Espai Cub

**PEP VIDAL**

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09/10 – 17/11

The project { } comprises a cube, 83 cm in height, width and depth and almost a ton in weight, set up in the centre of the Espai Cub. Despite the clear allusion to the minimalist sculpture that may be deduced from its basic objectual nature, this cube condenses and insulates nothingness by means of strict scientific procedures and construction cladding.

Each space, being, object, agent, act or situation is a system that produces reactions between its own constituents and those of its surroundings. Interested in the complexity and sensitivity of systems and interactions, the artist employs the appropriate technical procedures to eliminate air molecules and produce an ultra-vacuum capsule, a space in which atmospheric pressure is radically lower than normal, a micro-system in which the possibilities of interaction inside are limited as much as possible, even at the level of imperceptible, infinitesimal changes.

Seeking to make this insulation last over time, its resistance to changes and flows within and beyond { }, the vacuum has been covered with all kinds of insulating layers of materials from the fields of industry, science and architectural construction. Expanded polystyrene, wood, iron, fibreglass, plaster, elastomeric foam, cement, LT (light technology) panels, reinforced concrete, stainless steel, lead, silica aerogel and mu-metal are among the elements that prevent any effects caused by fire, water, moisture, steam, extreme temperatures, traction, compression, impact and its sound, airborne sound, light, X-rays and infrared rays, electromagnetic fields and waves or cosmic dust on this small and weighty hypercube.

Steering clear of any kind of modification or conditioning by and to its surroundings, this real or scientific nothingness, in its specificity, acts as a symbolic gesture of human will to participate actively in the framework of reality. Circumscribing to science as a method and using { }, i.e. a cube comprising many cubes within another cube, Pep Vidal places a nothingness-system in an exhibition space, a singularity of the space in the middle of the city and the world which calls on the dialectics of the possibility that defines the very artistic deed.

Pep Vidal (Rubí, Catalonia, 1980) holds a BA in Mathematics from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) and is pursuing a PhD in Physics at the UAB and the ALBA synchrotron light facility. He also completed the Advanced Course in Contemporary Art at A\*Desk. Linking scientific thought as life experience to his artistic practice, he works around the infinitesimal changes that constantly take place everywhere and whose chain is chaotic and (almost) infinite. His latest projects included *Flickr = reality?* (Cultura|s, *La Vanguardia*, 2012); *Figura 5.1* (Hangar, 2012); *Un nudo salvaje* (A\*Desk, 2012); *Grass grows* (Muxart, Martorell, 2012; Fabra i Coats, 2013); *Proceso en infinito* (LABoral, Gijón, 2012); *Movimiento 44* (Sant Andreu Contemporani, 2013), and *Simbiosis Hippie*, alongside Jonathan Millán (Can Felipa, 2013). He is the co-founder of *granja.cat*, a project aimed at disseminating mathematical culture, especially among children. Vidal is currently an artist in residence at Hangar.

