



Fig. 1

Fig. 1
Bill Viola
Incarnation, 2008
 Color High-Definition video on plasma display mounted on wall
 155.5 x 92.5 x 12.7 cm
 Performers: Oguri, Roxanne Steinburg
 Photo: Kira Perov
 Courtesy of Bill Viola Studio

Fig. 2
Bill Viola
The Arrangement, 2007
 Color High-Definition video diptych on plasma displays
 mounted on wall
 121.9 x 144.8 x 12.7 cm
 Performers: Page Leong, Larry Omaha
 Photo: Kira Perov
 Courtesy of Bill Viola Studio

OPENING HOURS
 Tuesday to Thursday, 10 am to 8 pm
 Fridays to Saturdays, 10 am to 9 pm
 Sundays and public holidays, 10 am to 8 pm
 24 and 31 December, 10 am to 3 pm
 Closed on Mondays, 25 December and 1 January

ADMISSION FEES
 Permanent collection: 6.00 euros
 Temporary exhibition: 4.50 euros
 Combined ticket: 8.00 euros
 Ticket sales cease 30 minutes before closing time

REDUCED FEES (50%)
 Visitors over 65
 Students under 26 with valid identification
 Groups of 20 people (by appointment)

FREE ADMISSION
 Youths aged 18 and younger (children 12 and younger
 accompanied by an adult)
 Holders of EURO<
 Students of the Universidad de Málaga with valid identification
 ICOM members
 Last Sunday of every month

ADVANCE TICKET SALES
 Tickets may be bought in advance by calling (34) 902 360 295
 or online at www.generaltickets.es

Advance tickets are retrieved on the day of visit at the
 Museum's ticket desk, upon compulsory presentation of a credit card
 and a valid identity card or passport. The Museum and Unicaja decline
 any liability in the event of loss or theft of tickets. Tickets once bought
 may not be cancelled, replaced or refunded

For other guided visits, please contact: educacion@mpicassom.org

Palacio de Buenavista
 C/ San Agustín, 8
 29015 Málaga
 General information: (34) 902 44 33 77
 Switchboard: (34) 952 12 76 00
info@mpicassom.org
www.museopicassomalaga.org

Cover
Bill Viola
Three Women, 2008
 Color High-Definition video
 on plasma display mounted on wall
 155.5 x 92.5 x 12.7 cm
 Performers: Anika, Cornelia, Helena Ballent
 Photo: Kira Perov
 Courtesy of Bill Viola Studio

© Of the text: Museo Picasso Málaga
 © Photo: Kira Perov and Bill Viola



D.L.: M-40000-2010



museo **PICASSO** Málaga

Bill Viola
 Figurative Works
 28/06/2010 – 12/09/2010

Bill Viola: *Figurative Works* launches a series of exhibitions at the Museo Picasso Málaga that aim to investigate and reconsider the influence of Picasso's work on contemporary art and artists.

"The self is an ocean without a shore. Gazing upon it has no beginning or end, in this world and the next." The words of the Andalusian mystic Ibn Arabi (1165–1240) inspired Bill Viola to create his work *Ocean without a Shore*, which was shown at the Venice Biennial in 2007 and was the origin of the series "Transfigurations", to which the three works in the present exhibition belong.

As the artist has explained, "Transfigurations" refers to the rare process whereby both the substance and essence of an entity is reconfigured through a transformation that arises from within, following a revelation or the experience of an overwhelming sense of clarity. The result is the fusion of the physical and the metaphysical, a transition associated with the most profound human experiences in which life seems to grow dark, putting our limits to the test and often going beyond them.

The Arrangement (2007), *Incarnation* (2008) and *Three Women* (2008) all repeatedly show anonymous figures emerging from the darkness, moving towards the light through a curtain of water (water and light are two elements of great symbolic significance), only to return again to the shadows located in the uncertainty of the distant background.

When making these high-definition videos, Viola gave the actors very few instructions and their reactions when passing through the curtain of water were natural ones: for some, this act was a personal battle, for others an exorcism, a re-birth, the loss of innocence, or simply the desire to turn back. In this sense the artist noted: "All of us, crew and performers alike, were transformed by the experience, or perhaps I should say 'transfigured'. I would like to believe that the experience continues with those who are able to see these pieces in the exhibition."

The project-installation *Bill Viola: Figurative Works* is the first exhibition at the Museo Picasso Málaga that focuses on the numerous different types of influences and indirect relationships that the work of Picasso has brought about and which spring to mind when we look at the key figures in the most recent history of western art.

Symbolism, human beings' isolation, psychological profundity, life and death are all themes present in the work of Picasso, particularly in his Blue Period, which started at the time of the death of his close friend Carles Casagemas (1881–1901). Picasso's painting *Life* (1903) constituted the origin of the proposal made by the Museum to Bill Viola, who responded with the suggestion to display the three works from the "Transfigurations" series.



Fig. 2

Transformation understood as a journey towards knowledge that transfigures us from within is a universal and timeless theme in art and one that Picasso adopted from the classical tradition in order to reinterpret through his own particular gaze. Similarly, in the present day leading artists such as Bill Viola focus on transformation in a contemporary manner through the use of new creative techniques.

With the present exhibition the Museo Picasso Málaga intends to reveal the subtle connections that exist between some of the works by both artists, identifying what is unique in them as well as the shared elements.

The exhibition is accompanied by an audiovisual that explains key points in order to assist in an understanding of certain parallels



and shared interests between the work of the two figures, who fall within such notably different cultural contexts and periods.

Internationally acknowledged as a pioneering figure in the use of the projected image, and subsequently of a pictorial-digital mode of representation using a plasma screen, most of the oeuvre of the US artist Bill Viola (New York, 1951) involves a long-standing personal commitment to basic human experiences, expressed in his work for almost the last four decades: birth and death, fear and anger, and awareness that life is a process of permanent evolution.

The project was produced and organized by the Museo Picasso Málaga with the kind collaboration of Kira Perov, executive director, Bill Viola Studio, as well as James Cohan Gallery in New York.