

PEDRO DÉNIZ  
WELCOME BRIDGE

When we speak about Pedro Déniz, we are referring to a multifaceted creative personality: a visual and performative artist, a graphic designer, a teacher, an activist and a cultural agent.

The subtitle of this project was thought up by joining the titles of two of his main working series: *La Puente (The Bridge) and Welcome*. The result is a new concept that is closely related to Pedro Déniz's way of understanding life and art.

*Welcome Bridge* is the expression of a vital desire, a Utopian horizon that guides the artist's philosophy and work: building «welcome bridges» can contribute to a better and fairer world.

This exhibition has been conceived as a retrospective project, That is why we have included a wide range of Déniz's works, from his first video pieces in Tangier (1987-1993) to his most recent ones.

The starting point of this exhibition is the radical project *La Puente*, which began in 1998, This work is open in time, since its «castaway bottles» are still showing up in different coastal regions of the world. So *La Puente*, as well as Déniz's global project *Welcome* -which started in 2003-, provide the recurring themes for the whole of his artistic work until today.

In our view, this exhibition shows a selection of pieces that represent the central corpus of the artist's formal and conceptual system. His mature work, with numerous poetic and emotional repercussions and a deep ethical, social and political weight, positions Déniz among the most relevant conceptual, installative and performative artists of his generation on the Canary Islands.

The versatility, depth and aesthetic quality of his artistic work endue his projects with a huge conceptual and visual appeal, which invites the viewers to participate in their creative realms. Déniz shows a remarkable command of all of the formal languages in art: object, sculpture, installation, photography, video and performance -the last one being a fundamental means of expression that pervades and gives form to an essential part of his work.

The evocative power of the image and the written language also play a role in Déniz's art and turn into significant expression mechanisms.

For Pedro Déniz, art and life constitute an inseparable unit. He is an inveterate activist, a poet of the forms committed to the socially disadvantaged, who chooses teamwork and cooperation as important aspects of his lifestyle.

A selection of his projects since 1998 until today is exhibited on the first floor of the venue San Martin Centro de Cultura Contemporánea, while the museum Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno (on the street Los Balcones 9) holds an exhibition of his work *Trincheras del pensamiento* (Trenches of Thinking), as well as an assortment of videos of his performances and video-art pieces. This is, then, an invitation for you to travel over and enjoy these *Welcome Bridges*.

Orlando Britto Jinorio  
Curator