

(ENG)

# CONSOL LLUPIÀ

## *THE EL PRAT WHALE*

### *TO EL PRAT / RETURN:*

## *VIBRAERA*

## OFF-SITE PROJECT

On 12 May 1983 – the year the artist Consol Llupià was born – a 19-metre-long Common Rorqual washed up on the beach of El Prat de Llobregat, Barcelona. This Whale's skeleton ended up as an outdoor display at Barcelona Zoo.

Llupià's project *The El Prat Whale to El Prat / Return* has encompassed several different chapters with the aim of communicating with the Whale and giving agency back to the unfortunate mammal to now decide its own destiny. On 12 May 2018, 35 years after the whale was discovered, Llupià posed a question on a local radio programme: "Whale, would you like to return home?"

Soon after, at the Zoo, a piece of the Whale's skeleton broke off. (Having badly deteriorated over the years, the bones were later dismantled to prevent their imminent collapse, and put in storage.) Llupià interpreted this as an affirmative sign of the cetacean's wish to have its remains returned to the

Mediterranean, and ceremonies of thanks were convened in November 2018 involving several of the local people who first found the Whale, in collaboration with students from a school for special educational needs in El Prat de Llobregat.

Llupià's project has since continued to spark intergenerational conversations spanning diverse professional sectors to celebrate physical and racial diversity, and triggered interspecies and non-hierarchical dialogue. Llupià has to date worked with local community organisations, as well as international institutions, specialist networks including marine biologists, scuba divers, experts in cetacean cognition, environmental and legal advisors, artists and energetic channelers. All have been working together to try to devise a two-fold plan (at once pragmatic and psychic) – to safely

return the Whale home. To return to the sea what belongs in the sea.

In 2019 Llupià produced the short film *Sister Mammal*, which was screened at the Barcelona Independent Film Festival, L'Alternativa. Later the same year she presented her artistic project to the scientific community during the World Marine Mammal Conference in Barcelona.

Llupià's proposal for Barcelona Producció was to finally carry out the act of restitution itself on the 12 May 2020 anniversary of the Whale's stranding. What followed has involved a concerted collective effort to broker an agreement with the Zoo authorities and to overcome the technical and logistical hurdles involved. Yet with the COVID-19 pandemic casting a long shadow over all forms of social gathering in the forthcoming months, Llupià decided to adapt her project.



The forced pause of economic activities has created a hiatus in what seems like the inexorable collapse of ecological systems – a suspension of capitalist systems that has reactivated once suppressed organic flows and provoked, in the words of the artist, a “re-evaluation of all aspects of life, materiality and internal and external conflicts, which are now collectively reflected in a different set of vibrations to what we usually experience”.

Llupià now wonders how, in a new world of social distancing and fear, we can recognise, return to and reactivate ancestral modes of being, and connect to diverse and increasingly multi-sensorial networks.

On 22 May 2020, during the migratory season of Whales around the Mediterranean coast and coinciding with a New Moon, Llupià invites collaborators to join her in “an energetic rebellion, a call for a collective immaterial action”, as she has described it. Under the title *Vibraera*, this unfolding chapter is conceived as a symbolic communicative dialogue between humans and Whales. It will consist of an energetic global gathering intended to activate the vibrational capacity of humans to generate interspecies connections.<sup>[i]</sup>

With *Vibraera*, Llupià hopes to revise human ties with non-human nature by activating energetic forces, to blend consciousness and to reactivate the vibrational capacities innate in all living organisms. In order to synchronise and align resonances, four principles are suggested in order to guide what will be a form of communal summoning: Love, Joy, Unity and Co-operation.<sup>[ii]</sup>

Llupià is extending an invitation to participate to all her past collaborators who have so generously shared their knowledge and guidance over the years. Each is free to choose a means of ceremonial cetacean connection, and a way of calling up, acknowledging or addressing the four principles. Each participant chooses and conceives how to materialise this, whether through spoken or written words or as images, sounds or other media. These communications will then be gathered on the project’s website ([www.vibraera.net](http://www.vibraera.net)). In addition, Llupià extends and distributes this invitation to the wider public through La Capella’s social networks via the hashtags #labalenadelprat and #Vibraera.

#### Latitudes

#### CONSOL LLUPIÀ

Consol Llupià (Barcelona, 1983) graduated in Fine Arts at the Universitat de Barcelona (2001-2006) and joined the Erasmus Programme at the National Academy of Arts in Sofia, Bulgaria (2006). Between 2015 and 2017 Llupià produced the project Performance oficial under the auspices of the Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Wifredo Lam in Havana, Cuba. Throughout 2016 she mediated the curatorial season Xarxa Zande at the Centre d’Art Santa Mònica, Barcelona, and between 2007 and 2017 she organised *Campo de desconcentració polivalente*, a multidisciplinary, collective and self-organised art project in Alcóntar, Almería.

#### VIBRAERA

At 4.00 pm on 22 May, coinciding with the 37th anniversary of the finding of a 19-metre-long Whale on the beach of El Prat de Llobregat, the artist Consol Llupià invites us to join her in *Vibraera*, an energetic action based on the principles of Love, Joy, Unity and Co-operation which consists of the collective synchronisation of vibrations in tune with the network of cetacean consciousness.

At [www.vibraera.net](http://www.vibraera.net), you will find information to help you participate.

<sup>i</sup> *Vibraera* is a slang expression used in the Sierra de los Filabres, Almería, to describe a situation or action that results in high energy or that entices or invites someone to participate. The artist likes the fact that by breaking and reversing the words *vibra* and *era*, it might also mean an “Age of vibrations”.

<sup>ii</sup> The four principles of the cetacean consciousness according to Kai and Ornai, 2020. <https://quantumholoforms.com/kai/conciencia-cetacea/>