

SAURÓPOLIS

Darius Koehli

Opening: Friday, 14 May 2010 at 20.00

From 14 May to 9 June 2010

On 14 May 2010, the exhibition *Saurópolis* by the Swiss photographer **Darius Koehli** (Zurich, 1960) and of which the neighbourhood of Poblenou, Barcelona, is the grand protagonist, will open at the Espai Ubú.

Koehli, who has lived in Barcelona since the late 1980s, has directly witnessed the radical urban redevelopment of the neighbourhood and has made it a recurring theme in several of his pieces. Back between 2005 and 2008, he took two sets of photos based on this theme, and now has made a video that he will present for the first time as part of the programme of events at the [LOOP Festival 2010](#).

The exhibition, which will be open to the public until 9 June, relates the transformation of the industrial ruins of the neighbourhood before the 22@ days into sparkling, designer buildings and modern technological complexes. Ghostly images of streets inhabited with animals both real and imaginary, from cats and dogs to dragons, phoenixes and dinosaurs, etc.... extinct creatures from a past barely recalled, which wander about landscapes that are disappearing, that are ceasing to be what they are. The approach is nostalgic and critical but with a heavy irony and a strong sense of humour.

The whole *Saurópolis* project for Espai Ubú will bring the set of photos completed by Koehli two years ago to Poblenou for the first time; large images on canvass of situations or observations with a simple regular camera. It is traditional street photography with the unique feature that the photos taken at night time have been so with one of the first cameras to ever be incorporated into a mobile phone. This gives them a greater pictorial quality and they are thickly grained and with a murky appearance which bestows a sense of the un-real upon them.

On the same premise as the photos, there will be no prior scene setting or post-production edition in the *Saurópolis* video; the purpose is to preserve a certain documentary style and give a greater sense that the image has just been captured.

The Swiss experimental musician **Martin Hug** will also be taking part in the project. As well as being responsible for the video's soundtrack, on the opening day of the exhibition and at 20.00 he will give a performance under the name of *Elektrosaurus*, where together with the German ballerina **Juschka Weigel**, and accompanied by his collection of electronic harps, he will improvise, live, sceneries with sound that express concern about the urban redevelopment, forming common bonds with Koehli's work.

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