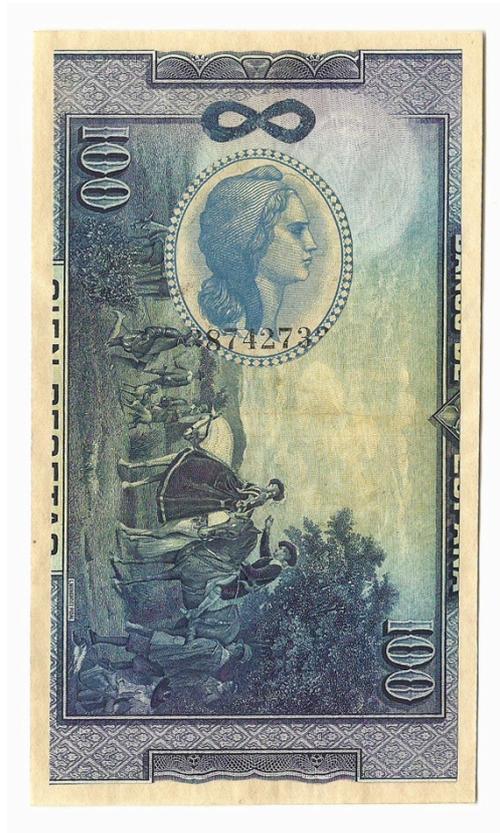


LA CAJA BLANCA PRESENTS: *Apparitions*

La Caja Blanca is pleased to present Alyssa Pheobus Mumtaz's first solo exhibition in Spain. An American artist currently based in Charlottesville, Virginia, Pheobus Mumtaz is best known for monumental drawings that link archaic architectural forms to a hieroglyphic language of abstraction.

Created in the context of La Caja Blanca's Artist Residency Program in Mallorca, the works assembled in the exhibition reflect the artist's expansion into new drawing strategies that incorporate collage, graphite rubbings and ikat weaving. Like her abstract works on paper, these new projects display a sensitive engagement with materials that echoes her deep reverence for traditional and devotional craft practices.

*Peseta Tarot: Strength, 2012*

Courtesy of the artist, Tracy Williams Ltd (NY) and La Caja Blanca Gallery (Palma de Mallorca, Spain). Artwork produced during La Caja Blanca's Residency and Research programme for Visual Artists in Mallorca (Spain).

As glimpses into projects that are still unfolding, the works presented in *Apparitions* examine traces of the past that are suspended cryptically in the present. Discovered during her research, the uniquely layered and contentious histories of the island of Mallorca have provided a critical point of departure for Pheobus Mumtaz's inquiry into communities, practices and bodies of knowledge that are on the verge of disappearance.

**Artist:** Alyssa Pheobus Mumtaz (USA, 1982)

**Inauguration:** Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at 19.00 hrs

**Exhibition ends:** 15 December 2012

**Address:** La Caja Blanca, Calle Can Verí 9, Palma de Mallorca 07001. Spain.

**With special thanks to:** *Teixits Bujosa, Monasterio de la Purísima Concepción* (Palma de Mallorca, Spain). Tracy Williams, Tracy Williams Ltd. (New York).

**For more information and to download high resolution images:** [www.lacajablanca.com](http://www.lacajablanca.com)

**Contact for interviews with the artist, and private guided visits:**

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Made on location at the *Monasterio de la Purísima Concepción* in Palma de Mallorca (popularly known as "*les caputxines*", nowadays is of the *franciscanas TOR*), *Novitiates* is an indirect portrait of a hidden community. Ghostly but accurate, the rubbings that comprise the project

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record Pheobus Mumtaz's encounter with an amazing collection preserved of hand forged antique scissors that were once used by the nuns of this closed order renowned for its stewardship of disappearing textile practices. To the Capuchinas these scissors were tools both practical and initiatic; each nun was given a pair upon entering cloistered life.

A parallel project, *East*, came about through collaboration with local weaver Guillermo Bujosa, of the Bujosa Textile Workshop in Santa María del Camí. Designed by Pheobus Mumtaz and woven by Bujosa in the original workshop founded in 1949, the project translates Mallorca's traditional *roba de llengües* textile into a commanding tapestry that is both portable and capable of delineating a niche-like space. By subtly reconfiguring design elements classic to Mallorcan weaving, the project aims to reconnect this textile to its nomadic, transcultural history.

A concern for history also informs *Peseta Tarot*, a project in which the artist utilizes meticulous collage techniques to transform vintage Spanish pesetas into functional tarot cards. These tiny, densely crafted objects pinpoint fascinating convergences between the traditional iconography of tarot cards and the wildly diverse imagery of Spanish bank notes. Despite being eclipsed by the Euro, the many faces of the peseta persist as reminders of the restlessness of historical consciousness in modern Spain.

## **Artist's biography:**

Since 2009 Alyssa Pheobus Mumtaz has travelled extensively, living and working between Lahore, Pakistan, New Mexico and Washington, DC. She earned a BA in visual art from Yale University (2004) and an MFA from Columbia University's School of the Arts (2008), which she attended on a fellowship. She has exhibited her work internationally with support from organizations including the New York Foundation for the Arts, Dieu Donné, the Ucross Foundation, Triple Canopy and the Santa Fe Art Institute. Her work has been reviewed in *Modern Painters*, *Art in America* and the *New York Times*. She recently joined the faculties of the University of Virginia and George Washington University, and is currently working toward exhibition projects in Delhi and Mumbai. Her work is represented by Tracy Williams, Ltd., New York.

## **Note to editors:**

Alyssa Pheobus Mumtaz will be offering a guided tour of the exhibition, in English, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2012 at 18.00 hrs. To reserve a place, please RSVP the gallery through email (recepccion@lacajablanca.com) with your name and contact details by 18<sup>th</sup> of September.

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