

# \* Round Trip NY \*



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SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 2010

## Round Trip NY #1. Laura F. Gibellini



Laura F. Gibellini. "341 West 24th Street, NY"  
Presented at AC Institute. New York. 2008.

**Laura F. Gibellini**  
<http://www.laurafgibellini.com>

The madrilian artist **Laura F. Gibellini** came to New York for the first time in 2008 to do her PhD thesis research. She developed part of it at the **MoMA** <http://www.moma.org>. She moved to New York with the support of a pre-PhD-mobility grant from the **Universidad Complutense de Madrid** <http://www.ucm.es>. Gibellini thinks that subventions from institutions are a great opportunity for artists, although she considers there are not enough: *"At this moment I am accepted in a residency-for-artists program in The City without getting any grant from Spain. In my opinion this is a contradiction."*

The artist, who has been living temporarily in other places -among them, Germany - says that coming to NY didn't cause her any more trouble than is normal when one moves to another city, country or environment with a different culture.

Gibellini, who lives in between the Barajas and JFK airports, has considered the advantages and disadvantages of living and working in the Big Apple, *"The advantages are the diversity that the city offers and its very interesting cultural environment. The disadvantages are that you start from scratch and in NY there is a big concentration of good artists, many of them with well positioned studios, which I don't have."* Regarding her profession, she points out the main differences here contrasted with Spain, *"the distance that somebody can take from her own work and career, and the possibility of thinking from the outside, which is, in my case, fundamental in my work."*

Nowadays **Gibellini** doesn't have any relationship with Spanish cultural institutions in NY, but she thinks that there is some effort for the promotion of Spanish artists, *"I feel uncomfortable thinking that the recognition of an artist depends on his origin. I don't quite like the idea of a Spanish artist being Spanish prior to being an artist. I believe that the institutions in Spain are starting to consider the importance of generating institutional links that favor mobility for the artists, something that is very necessary and still very limited. This is what I miss."*

When asked if moving to New York has changed her work and in which way or ways, she answers: *"Yes, I think so, people tell me that I have become more conceptual. I think because of the contact with different exhibitions and trends."*

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  - ▼ August (2)
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However, **Gibellini** does not see a move to NY as necessary in the career of an artist: *"No, I do not believe that coming to New York or to any other place is something necessary in the career of an artist."*

**Gibellini** doesn't belong to any art community and she would not like to be a part of a community of artists, Spanish artists in particular: *"I don't want to be bound to specific communities in relation to their origin, ethnicity, culture..."*

The artist, who works with several non-profits, says that her professional relation with North American institutions is still minor. So far, she has worked with several alternative spaces, such as the **AC Institute** <http://www.artcurrents.org> and the **Art For Change** <http://www.artforchange.org>.

With reference to the visibility of Spanish art in the New York context, she seems not so sure about what Spanish art means.

She is considering the possibility of settling down in New York City, and affirms she would like to stay in New York, not without adding a prudent *"but you never know."*

Posted by Eva Mendoza at 2:14 AM 

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