

**ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION INVITES  
ROBERT CERVERA, *TO VENT*  
7 OCTOBER–19 DECEMBER 2021**



Robert Cervera, *To Vent*, 2021. Digital photograph. Courtesy the artist.

Zabludowicz Collection is pleased to present an Invites exhibition by Robert Cervera – his first solo show in London. Working across sculpture, video and music, Cervera looks at the materiality and processes used to contain formless assets such as air, water or data.

Approached as a sculptural object, the exhibition site was informed by the artist's ongoing research into industrial structures such as water reservoirs and data centres. Incorporating materials from computer builds, such as perforated panels and PC fans, Cervera suggests the staging of a data centre. The exhibition space is completely dark, with the only illumination provided by the floating projected film and small fans. Navigating the space becomes a sensorial experience.

The installation is grounded by Cervera's moving image work *To Vent* (2021). The film is set to music created using the sounds of air blown through liquid cooling pipes and composed with live coding software, and depicts garden snails attempting to pass through a computer venting panel. Just like the punch card coding used in early computers, the snails decide which holes to go through or ignore in a simple 0/1 decision strictly determined by sensitivity.

The same vented panelling is used in the installation across the entrance into the exhibition space, obscuring the film by showing it through a punctured lens. As viewers move around the sculptural work, the textured concrete floor – created by the artist pushing concrete through a similar type of perforated panel – subdued lighting and droning audio combine to confuse the senses. Just as the snails do, the audience moves through perforations to navigate the textures in the exhibition with a new sensorial compass.

*To Vent* reappraises the physicality of the digital world. A data centre becomes the installation site, the liquidity of concrete becomes a textured floor, and code becomes contorting snails. A meditative look at the shifting dynamic between the natural world and data infrastructures, Cervera's material exploration traverses mediums in an effort to make visible the intangible systems around us.

## BIOGRAPHY

Robert Cervera (b. 1976, Barcelona) received an MA from the Royal College of Art in Sculpture and a Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art from Central Saint Martins. Recent exhibitions include *Ye\_soft\_pipes/play\_on*, Tangent Projects, Barcelona (2020); *Yes And*, MOCA, London (2019) and *Kelder Projects*, London (2018); *Tomorrow Starts Here*, La Escocesa, Barcelona (2017); *Identify your limitations*, Vitrine, Basel (2017); *Salón Acme*, Zona Maco, Mexico (2017); *OUTPOST'S Open Film*, selected by Ed Atkins, Norwich and London (2016); *Ichor*, Danielle Arnaud, London (2016); *Charlottenborg Spring Exhibition*, Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen (2016); and *Rare Collisions of Purpose*, Boetzelaer|Nispen, Amsterdam (2016).

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

**ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION INVITES:** Dedicated to solo presentations by UK-based artists without UK commercial gallery representation.

## ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION

Zabludowicz Collection is a philanthropic organisation including a growing collection of contemporary art and a programme of international exhibitions, events and artists' residencies. Founded in 1994, the Collection is dedicated to fostering new audiences and a sustainable environment for contemporary art, offering a variety of opportunities and support for artists and art organisations. All of its activities are privately funded and free for the public to access.

### For more information, images or any other press enquiries please contact:

Julia Greenway  
+44 (0)20 7428 1651  
[julia@zabludowiczcollection.com](mailto:julia@zabludowiczcollection.com)

## VISITOR INFORMATION

We are looking forward to welcoming you back to the gallery. Our priority is keeping all visitors and staff safe. In order to do so, we have made a few physical and administrative changes to the gallery.

### Admission: FREE

Thursday–Sunday,  
12–6pm or by appointment

### Café, Library and Shop

The **Shop** sells limited edition artworks,  
50% of the proceeds go directly to the artist.  
[shop.zabludowiczcollection.com](http://shop.zabludowiczcollection.com)

### Address:

176 Prince of Wales Road, London NW5 3PT  
+44 (0)207 428 8940

### Transport (TFL stations):

Chalk Farm or Kentish Town West

[info@zabludowiczcollection.com](mailto:info@zabludowiczcollection.com)  
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