

## LEONOR ANTUNES AT MUSEO SERRALVES



Leonor Antunes  
*El trayecto de la cuerda (string travel)*, film still, 2011  
Courtesy: the artist

The exhibition "Casa, Modo de Usar" ("Villa, How To Use") by the Portuguese artist Leonor Antunes is the result of a collaboration between Kunstverein Düsseldorf and Porto Center for Contemporary Art Museu Serralves. Leonor Antunes (b. 1972, Lisbon) has been living and working in Berlin ever since completing a residency at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in 2005. This solo show, curated by Núria Enguita, explores the artist's ongoing preoccupations with defining space in relation to cultural referents and the physical presence of forms and objects. The title of this exhibition recalls the fine line between the two domains of Antunes's work, architecture and design, addressing their points of confluence and dissociation. The artist's practice consists of de-contextualizing pieces of furniture, fragmenting objects in order to question their original function, transcribing three-dimensional space into flat maps and vice versa, and placing structures into foreign environments where they shift and expand into new hybrids. All of this confronts and renews viewers' perception of space; the "user" of her works is often required to renounce conventional definitions of awareness in order to embrace a new kind of experience. Exploring the roots of minimalist and conceptual thinking of the 1960s and '70s, Antunes dissolves the narrative load carried by environments and objects while retaining their structure. This structure connects the work to its site, which she explores with care before installation commences. This aspect of the artist's working method is highlighted in the Serralves show, where the work has been carefully conceived in response to spatial measures and configurations. Represented by Air de Paris, Paris, Galerie Isabella Bortolozzi, Berlin, and Marc Foxx, Los Angeles, Antunes has exhibited in various international venues including Museo Nacional Reina Sofia, Madrid, Museu da Republica, Rio de Janeiro, and Dicksmith Gallery, London. The artist's work is also regularly shown in her native Portugal. "Casa, Modo de Usar" is the second exhibition of Antunes's work in Serralves museum. *Marta Jecu*