

Press release

Javier Pérez

Un souffle – A breath

April 6 – May 18, 2024

Le temps d'un souffle – *The blink of an eye*

Javier Pérez's new exhibition embraces three lines of work which spread out like a rhizome in the artist's approach: each series is an offshoot that opens towards a new direction but remains linked to the body of work as a whole. Although unique, these three lines of work share a common anchor: the branch, the tree, the forest. Each work, an inner philosophical forest, is a temporal experience from which the energy of movement flows. A non-linear movement, made of polarities and endless recurrences. Like a wave. A breath. Materializing the pulse of life, creation and knowledge.

With *Polaridad* (2023-24), a set of four diptychs drawn in watercolor, pastel and charcoal on black cardboard, Javier Pérez's work materializes the movement of light. In line with the *Caminos* (2021-22) and *Fuera del Camino* (2022-23) series, based on photos taken in the forest, Javier Pérez has created a diptych of two drawings, one dark, the other brightly lit, in which the pattern seems to disappear. Through a unique use of watercolor, with the pigment barely diluted and worked in thickness, the artist transforms light into matter. A metallic matter, of mixed gold and silver, that covers the darkness of the support until it completely conceals it with its intense brilliance. A fragile frontier between inert nothingness and the radiant vibration of creation.

With the sculptures *Los tres sueños de Descartes* (2023) and the set of six drawings entitled *Representación y Pulsión (desvelo de la razón)* (2023), Javier Pérez's work situates itself on a new line of tension, bringing into play the free movement of plant forms against the linearity of geometric shapes. The organic and the living never cease to grow, to proliferate, over and beyond the limits of this linear order. It's as if the free energy of life was emerging in space, an energy that cannot be contained by the desire for control in our modern societies. Driven energy that pushes back the enclosures of what we think we know. Cracks of doubt germinating in our inner walls.

The group of sculptures and drawings entitled *Inspiración – Expiración* (2024) embodies the fragile tremors of life. Faces spitting fire in the dark. Skeletons climbing spring. Flowers as powdery as ash. Death in an egg and vice versa. There's no linear or logical meaning. Only pieces of stories without beginning or end. Seeds and bones that come and go on the other side of the dial. Breathing out suns, breathing in winters. Life trembles only in this tenuous in-between. A flash of beauty in that space. The blink of an eye.

Amélie Adamo

Author, independent curator

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{ Galerie
Papillon }

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Javier Pérez – Born in 1968, Bilbao, Spain. Lives and works in Barcelona, Spain.

Few key dates

1992 Beaux-Arts, UPV-EHU Université du Pays Basque, Bilbao, Spain.

1993 Beaux-Arts of Paris.

2001 Representative of Spain at the 49th Venise Biennale.

2004 *Mutaciones*, installation at Palacio de Cristal, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain

2011 Monographic exhibition *Body of Christ* at Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, USA.

2013 Participate in *Glasstress: White light / White Heat*, London College of Fashion / The Wallace Collection, Londres, UK

2018 Solo show at Transpalette de Bourges.

2019 4th solo show at Galerie Papillon.

2022 *Presencias Ausencias*, personal exhibition at Sala Kubo, Saint-Sébastien, Spain

Amongst public and private collections : Centre Pompidou, Collection Caja de Burgos (Spain), Collection Société Générale, Collection Würth (Berlin), Centre national des arts plastiques, Fondation d'art contemporain Daniel et Florence Guerlain, Frac Normandie Rouen, Frac Normandie Caen, Frac Pays de la Loire, MACBA (Barcelona), Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (Madrid), Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain de Strasbourg, Museo Guggenheim Bilbao, Toyama Glass Art Museum (Japan)