

## OBRA

Elena Alonso, Antonio Ballester Moreno, José Díaz, Julia Huete, Miguel Marina, Kiko Pérez, Guillermo Pfaff

Opening: March 2nd, 2024, at 6:00 PM

Until May 11th, visit Thursday to Saturday, 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM

A+B Gallery

Corsetto Sant'Agata, 22. Brescia

A+B Gallery presents **Obra**, a group show focusing on a certain contemporary Spanish painting production, with the participation of: Elena Alonso (Madrid, 1981), Antonio Ballester Moreno (Madrid, 1977), José Díaz (Madrid, 1981), Julia Huete (Ourense, 1990), Miguel Marina (Madrid, 1989), Kiko Pérez (Vigo, 1982) and Guillermo Pfaff (Barcelona, 1976).

Following the exhibition "Farbe," centered on the German context, the gallery investigates and extrapolates from another specific cultural context a selection of research in line with the painting approach that A+B Gallery has been pursuing in recent years.

The title **Obra** emphasizes a factual aspect of the act of painting, in which points of tension, *idea* and *material* are expressed on the canvas participating in their historical and contemporary context.

The artists selected for **Obra** are connected to each other considering various cultural data and factors such as belonging to a **generational period**, mainly covering the 1980s as the

year of birth, or the late 1970s, a **common path** in terms of studies, although from different Spanish regions, and above all the **common geographical area of action**, specifically that of the city of Madrid, where the artists have settled and regularly operate in recent years in city galleries and institutions.

The exhibition unfolds between the **two poles of city and landscape** - a metaphor for painting itself - and their translation into **artificial** and **natural**, **synthetic** and **organic**. An artist such as Elena Alonso, with her research into architectural artifice, finds space for light and refined painting techniques, just as José Díaz transforms life in the urban structure of the city into a pictorial language. Artifice is total in the synthesis of Antonio Ballester Moreno, where nature, whether observed in detail or in the whole cosmos, becomes image and abstraction. The tension between two poles, the organic and the artificial, is also found in the work of Julia Huete, who arrives at the definition of a painting executed with hidden stitches in organic and evanescent forms. Kiko Pérez, with his paper and wood collages, is positioned in this liminal space of constant exchange between the organic and the constructive, while Guillermo Pfaff's forms question the representative act in favour of a grammar born of the typical material of painting, making his painting an independent act. Miguel Marina is resolutely oriented towards nature and landscape, in which there is no representation, but an individual and fragmented experience of it.

Above all, Obra restores the artists' ability to use pictorial material to create a unique expressiveness. Using **different techniques**, the theme of **painting** and abstraction is rejected in order to explore a visual language with different grammars and syntaxes.

The exhibition explores the interconnections and relationships between the artists, examining how each artist's work produces visual narratives whose minimal narrative units emerge through the use of **universal forms** and **unusual materials**.

## ARTISTS

**Elena Alonso** (Madrid, 1981) graduated with a degree in Fine Art from the Complutense University of Madrid. While still a student, she received grants that permitted her to round out her education at the Royal Institute of Art (Stockholm, 2004) and the University of Vigo (Pontevedra, 2005-2006). After graduation, she travelled to Helsinki to study at the Kuvataldeaketemia (2007) and later completed a master's degree in Art, Creation and Research in Madrid (UCM, 2010). Her work has been featured in solo exhibitions at Espacio Valverde (Fórmula, 2022); Galerie Fabian Lang (Members without Order, 2020); Matadero Madrid (Visita guiada, 2017); Espacio Valverde (Canto blando, 2016; Composición de lugar, 2014; La tapadera, 2012); Museo ABC (El espacio alrededor, 2015); Sala de Arte Joven de la Comunidad de Madrid, as part of the program 9 (un proyecto sobre dibujo contemporáneo, 2011); A.C. Mediodía Chica (Condiciones y efectos personales, 2010); and Cable Factory of Helsinki (Paredes de piel, 2007). She has been awarded several distinctions and grants such as the prestigious Culture Award of the Madrid Community for Visual Art (2018), the El ARCO Community of Madrid Award for Young Artists (2018), GENERACIONES 2013 (2013), 23rd Circuitos de Artes Plásticas (2012) and Contemporary Creation Grant from Matadero Madrid (2011).

**Antonio Ballester Moreno** (Madrid, 1977) lives and works in Madrid and is considered one of the key figures of the Spanish art scene. His work is included in the monograph Vitamin P2 published by Phaidon (2012) and is in the collections of Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo (CA2M), Móstoles, Spain; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León (MUSAC), León, Spain; Olbricht Collection, Berlin, Germany; and Reydan Weiss Collection, Essen, Germany. Ballester Moreno has exhibited internationally at the Casa Encendida, Madrid, Spain; Museo de Arte de Zapopan, Guadalajara, Mexico; Peres Projects, Berlin, Germany; and Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo (CA2M), Móstoles, Spain and is a recipient of the Artistic Creation Grant from the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León (MUSAC).

**José Díaz** (Madrid, 1981) graduated in Fine Arts at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and continued his studies in Berlin in 2007-2008. His work has been shown in institutional group exhibitions such as Retroalimentación, at Sala de Arte Joven (2014), Sin motivo aparente at CA2M (2013), Iceberg at Matadero (2012) and Inéditos at La Casa Encendida (2012), in Madrid. He has also had solo exhibitions at Galería Louis 21 in Palma de Mallorca (2013) and Galería José Robles in Madrid (2011). Besides his visual art practice, Díaz is also involved in collective projects such as Autoplacer dedicated to music, and Poderesunidos, an art collective that focuses on scientific research, pseudo-science and other forms of knowledge.

**Julia Huete** (Ourense, 1990) studied Art History at the Faculty of Pontevedra with exchanges at the University of Porto (Portugal) and Guadalajara, Jalisco (Mexico), as well as a Master's in Art Management in Pontevedra.

Her work has been selected in art competitions such as the "Premio Auditorio de Galicia" in Santiago or the Mostra Gas Natural Fenosa, Novos Valores, and awarded in the Isaac Díaz Pardo Plastic Arts Competition, the Ourense Council Plastic Arts Competition, or the University of Vigo Painting Competition. In 2018 she had her first solo exhibition at Nordés in Santiago de Compostela. Resident of the Royal Academy of Spain in Rome (RAER), in the promotion 2018-20. Her work can be found in collections such as: CA2M, CGAC, María Cristina Masaveu Peterson Collection, María José Jove Foundation Collection, DKV Collection, Alhambra Collection, Collection of the Royal Academy of Spain in Rome, Oliva Arauna Collection, MICA Collection, Diputación de Ourense, Diputación de A Coruña and private collections.

**Miguel Marina** (Madrid, 1989). graduated in Fine Arts from the Complutense University of Madrid. In 2010-2011 he lived in Bologna, Italy, where he continued his studies as part of the Erasmus program at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna. His works have been exhibited during the solo shows: A la sombra oscurece antes. Galería The Goma, Madrid (2022) Isidoro García Yáguez. Ana Mas Projects, Barcelona (2020) and Lanzarla al aire. Fundación Bilbao Art (2020). He has also exhibited in group exhibitions such as Una

historia del arte reciente (1960- 2020), a project of the DKV and Fundación Juan March collections. Fundación Juan March in Palma de Mallorca and at Museo de Arte Abstracto Español, Cuenca (2021). In 2022 he displayed his works in the group show Dog in the window, A+B Gallery.

**Kiko Pérez** (Vigo, 1982) lives and works in Madrid. He has been an artist in residence at El Granero (CHARCO Project), León de Guanajuato, Mexico (2019); El Ranchito, Matadero Madrid, Spain-Finland (2014); Rogaland Art Centre, Stavanger, Norway (2009); and BilbaoArte, BilbaoArte Foundation, Bilbao (2009). His solo exhibitions include 'El roce'; 'German Haircut', Fundación Luis Seoane, A Coruña (2017); 'Misterio' (2018); 'Makulatur' (2015); and 'Hola-Por Favor-Gracias-Hasta luego' (2011), at Galería Heinrich Ehrhardt, Madrid. His group exhibitions include 'Dialecto CA2M', Centro de Arte 2 de Mayo, Madrid (2021); 'Una historia del arte reciente 1960-2020', a project of Fundación Juan March and DKV, in the Museo Juan March in Palma de Mallorca (2022); 'Cultivar incertezas: Reformular o espacio/ conmocionar a mirada', CGAC, Centro Galego de Arte Contemporánea, Santiago de Compostela (2021).

**Guillermo Pfaff** (Barcelona, 1976) studied art at Escola Massana in Barcelona from 1995 to 1999. He has been shown in national and international art centers, in exhibitions such as: 'Una historia del arte reciente 1960-2020' a project by Fundación Juan March and DKV, in the Museo Juan March in Palma de Mallorca (2022) ; 'Pintures Catalanes', Galería Carles Taché, Barcelona ( 2021); 'Golfo de Roses', Galería Heinrich Ehrhardt (2020/ 2021); 'Over Easy', Galería Carles Taché, Barcelona (2018); 'Aire de Montserrat' , Museu de Montserrat (MDM)/Abadía de Montserrat, Barcelona (2017); 'Guillermo Pfaff / Adrià Cañameras', Galería Heinrich Ehrhardt, Madrid (2016); 'L'espai invisible', Piramidón, Barcelona (2016); 'La lliçó de Diògenes', Tecla Sala, Hospitalet (2016); University of Connecticut, Estados Unidos (2015).

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