

CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN GENÈVE

10, rue des Vieux-Grenadiers
Case postale 121 – 1211 Genève 8
T +41 22 329 18 42
F +41 22 329 18 86
presse@centre.ch - www.centre.ch

PRESS DOSSIER

Fernando Sánchez Castillo

(*1970)

25.05–05.08.2007

CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN GENÈVE

10, rue des Vieux-Grenadiers, 1205 Genève, info@centre.ch, www.centre.ch

FERNANDO SÁNCHEZ CASTILLO, "Parti de la peur"

(2nd floor)

25.05–05.08.2007

Private view: 24 May, 6pm–9pm

The Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève is proud to present the première in Switzerland of Spanish artist FERNANDO SÁNCHEZ CASTILLO.

FERNANDO SÁNCHEZ CASTILLO studies the relation between art and power, between history and politics, between public space and collective memory. Part of a generation characterized by idealist scepticism, and post-heroic aesthetics, the artist is interested in finding a viable place within the social and artistic community of today, for the notions of utopia and revolution. The exhibition presents recent and specially made works, including a large painting, a video, twelve sculptures from two different series, a monumental bronze and a series of ninety-five drawings.

All the works presented in "Parti de la Peur" carry traces of wars and/or revolt, either referring to authentic historical events like the Spanish Civil War, or by evoking an "average" conflict situation like a dictatorship's fall. The artist's sculptures challenge the notion of monument and make its inherent violence visible, perfectly illustrating the words of German philosopher Walter Benjamin who said that "there is no document of civilization which is not at the same time a document of barbarism" (in "Theses on the Philosophy of History", 1940). These sculptures figure monuments of a different type, as they cannot be reduced to the symbols of a specific political cause, but rather synthesize a social tension between different forces and ideologies. The monumental bronze "Narón 2003" is based on a photograph showing two independentists attacking the statue of Franco in its village of birth; here the rebels – along with the sculpture they are damaging – form together a new whole monument, each posture being somehow raised to the same symbolical level. Also reversing the expectations, the series of reduced scale projects for public sculptures ("Notes for the Aesthetic Education of the Bourgeoisie", 2004) express ideas of ruins and desolation, instead of the idealisation of a bright past or future.

The monument series (including "Felipe IV"; "Felipe III"; "Fuente de Apolo", 2006) consists of seven meticulously created models of the brick structures commissioned by the Republican Government to protect Spanish historical monuments from the damages of Nationalists attack on Madrid during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). The models act not only as testimonies of a darker side of history, but also show a symbolic superimposition of historical layers, as these classical monuments happened to be protected by temporary structures with singular modernist aesthetic qualities, against fascist forces self-proclaimed as the defenders of secular traditions. Referring to the same historical context, the monumental painting "Children playing at war after A. Centelles" (2007) is based on a photograph of young children enacting a shooting scene, evoking the famous history painting "The Shootings of May Third 1808" (1814) by Francisco Goya.

The video "Rich Cat Dies of Heart Attack in Chicago" (2004) was commissioned for the Sao Paulo Biennial 2004 by curator Katya García-Antón. It borrows its title from the puzzling headline of one of Brazil's most important newspapers in 1968. In a situation of extreme censorship, it was only possible to announce the loss of freedom through the absurd. In the video, the cast bronze head of an unspecified "ruler" (who could be a king or a dictator) is subjected to a sequence of ambiguous events - choreographies, frivolous games, and competitive sports. It is flung from a triumphal arch, attacked by a pack of hounds, and attached by ropes to a number of horses which pull it in opposite directions. As the artist remarks, this symbolic situation intends to "accord an imagery to those social processes which we know have taken place, but of which there has been scarcely any visual representation."

Finally, around ninety-five drawings by the artist are presented in the show, all related to his past and present projects, as complementary documents enlightening an artistic process based on research.

FERNANDO SÁNCHEZ CASTILLO obtained a residency at the Rijks Akademie, Amsterdam in 2005-2006. He has been exhibited in groups shows such as 'The Real Royal Trip' curated by Harald Szeemann at PS1, New York, 2004; Bad Boys, Spanish Pavilion, Venice Biennial 2004; and in solo shows in Centro de Arte Santa Monica, Barcelona and in MUSAC - Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León, 2006.

Curator of the exhibition: Katya García-Antón

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND IMAGES, please contact Aurélien Gamboni on +41 22 329 18 42, e-mail: presse@centre.ch

 **BANQUE HERITAGE**

VAN DAALEN & CIE
SWISS VALUE PARTNERS

SEACEX

Sociedad Estatal para la Acción Cultural Exterior

 MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES
FOR COOPERATION

 **ACTION LIGHT**

Sponsored by Banque Heritage and Van Daalen & Cie

Supported by SEACEX - Sociedad Estatal para la Acción Cultural Exterior de España, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y de Cooperación de España, Action Light, Hôtel Beau-Rivage, Carpe Diem and Pernod Ricard Swiss

The Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève is supported by Ville de Genève - Département des affaires culturelles

Institutional Members of the Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève: Banque Julius Baer, Genève – Bloomberg LP – Enigma – Exane – Federal Express – Firmenich S.A. – Fondation Ernst Göhner – Fondation Fluxum – Loterie Romande – Melina Press – Merrill Lynch Bank (Suisse) S.A. – JTI – Pour-cent culturel Migros.

PARALLEL EXHIBITION: MARTIN BOYCE, 25.05–05.08.2007

NEXT EXHIBITION: GENÈVE, ARTISTES ET CRÉATEURS D'AUJOURD'HUI, 5.09–30.09.2007



« Rich Cat Dies of Heart Attack in Chicago », vidéo, 20 min., 2004



« Narón 2003 », bronze, 2007



« Felipe IV », « Felipe III », « Cibeles », média mixte, 2006



« Nota II » / « Nota III », bronze, socle en bois et bonbonne de gaz, édition de 3 exemplaires, 2004

All images: Courtesy the artist and Galeria Juana de Aizpuru, Madrid

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND IMAGES, please contact Aurélien Gamboni on
+41 22 329 18 42, e-mail: presse@centre.ch

FERNANDO SÁNCHEZ CASTILLO

(*1970, Madrid)

1993 Universidad Complutense, Madrid. Fine Art Graduate
1995 Universidad Autónoma, Madrid. Filosofía y estética
2000 ENSBA, París. Programme de Recherche

Bourses et Résidences / Grants and Residencies

1994 Casa de Velázquez, Madrid
2000 Bourse Fondation Marcelino Botín, Santander
2002 Bourse pour projet, Generación 2002, Caja Madrid
2005-2006 Bourse Rijksakademie, Amsterdam

Expositions individuelles / Selected Solo Exhibitions

2007 "Parti de la peur", Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève
2004 "El arte dentro del arte". Iglesia del Monasterio de Ntra. Sra. De Prado (Valladolid)
"Notas para la educación estética de la burguesía". Galería Juana de Aizpuru, Madrid
2003 Anamnesis. La Casa Encendida, Madrid
"A Caballo". Sala Caja San Fernando, Sevilla
"A cada uno lo suyo". Fundación Espais, Girona
2002 NIHIL OBSTAT. Galería Max Estrella, Madrid
Tremblez Tyrans. Los Castillos, Alcorcón, Madrid
A Caballo. Caja San Fernando, Jerez
Doméstico, Madrid
Monocanal, Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid
2000 Galerie Romais Larivière. Paris
1998 Desde el cuarto de estar. Galería Marta Cervera, Madrid
1996 Galería Marta Cervera, Madrid
1992 Sala Recursos, Comunidad de Madrid, Madrid

Expositions collectives / Group Exhibitions

2007 O'07. Stand Juana de Aizpuru Gallery. Madrid.
"Wanas 2007". Exhibition for the 20th Anniversary. The Wanas Foundation. (With Louise Bourgeois y Jan Svenungsson). Knislinge, Sweden.
2006 ARCO'06. Stand Galería Juana de Aizpuru, Madrid
"Sieben auf einen Streich". Musée MARTa, Herford
"Registros contra el tiempo". Fundación Marcelino Botín, Santander
"Bienal del Fuego". Museo Bellas Artes de Caracas, Venezuela
2005 "El Paisaje Transgredido". Fundació Espais d'Art Contemporani de Girona
"LisboaPhoto 2005". Câmara Municipal de Lisboa
ARCO'05. Stand Galería Juana de Aizpuru, Madrid
DFOTO 2005. Stand Galería Juana de Aizpuru, Donostia-San Sebastián
Exposición del Concurso de Fotografía Purificación García 2005. Fundación Bartolomé March de Palma de Mallorca/ Palau de la Virreina, Barcelona/ Palacio de Galveas
Art 36 Basel. Stand galería Juana de Aizpuru, Basel
2004 "7º bienal Martínez Guerricabeitia". Universitat de Valencia, Valencia
"The Real Royal Trip" Comisario: Harald Szeemann. Itinerante: Museo Patio Herreriano. Valladolid.
ARCO'04. Stand Galería Juana de Aizpuru, Madrid
"Emergentes" Castellana Art Gallery, Madrid
"El arte dentro del arte". Fundación Rafael Botí, Córdoba
"Madrid Abierto". Paseo de Recoletos y Plaza Castilla, Madrid
"26 ª Bienal de Sao Paulo". Ciccillo Matarazzo Pavilion, Sao Paulo
"La Belleza del Fracaso. El Fracaso de la Belleza". Fundación Joan Miró, Barcelona
"Antirrealismos: Spanish Photomedia Now". Freemantle Art Centre, Perth
Art 35 Basel. Stand Galería Juana de Aizpuru, Basel
"(N)ORRETRATOS. Galería Juana de Aizpuru, Madrid
"La Alegría de mis sueños". I Bienal Internacional de Arte Contemporáneo de Sevilla (I BIACS)". Monasterio de Santa María de las Cuevas de la Isla de la Cartuja, Sevilla
"Azar". Palacio Galveiras, Lisboa
2003 NORTE – CENTRO – SUR. Galería Juana de Aizpuru, Madrid. Fundación NMAC, Montenmedio, Vejer, Cadiz
ART 34 BASEL. Stand Galería Juana de Aizpuru, Basel

	“El arte dentro del arte”. Sala Verónicas, Murcia “50e Biennale de Venise” “Bad Boys”, Venise “The Real Royal Trip” Comisario: Harald Szeemann “El Real Viaje Real”. Itinerante: P. S. 1. MOMA, New York “Antirrealismos spanish photomedia now”. Australian Centre for photography, Sydney “IX Bienal de artes plásticas ciudad de Pamplona” Art Basel Miami Beach. Stand Galería Juana de Aizpuru, Miami “Monocanal”. Centro de Arte Reina Sofía Spencer Browstone Gallery, New York “Otros Incluidos”. Casa de América, Madrid
2002	ARCO’03. Art of this Century Gallery. Galería Max Estrella. Stand Caja Madrid, Madrid “Capital Comfort”. Alcorcón, Madrid “Extreme Protection. N’it Niu, Pollensa, Mallorca Plural. Salas del Senado, Madrid ARCO’02. Galería Max Estrella, Madrid Postperformance y otros acontecimientos paralógicos. Fundació Espais. Burning. MNAC, Marseille Big Torino 2002. Foro Sur, Turin
2001	Show y basura. Foro Sur, Cáceres “Itinerarios”. Fundación Marcelino Botín, Santander “Appartement, Deichtorhallen”. Group show with Franz West, Hambourg “Art Cologne”. Galería Max Estrella, Köln “GAP. Grandes arquitecturas pequeñas”, Asturias “OSBORGE” avec Franz West. Kunsthaus, Zug “Señales”. Parque Ferial Juan Carlos I, Madrid “LISTE’01. Galerie Romaní Larivière, Basel Batophare, Paris Portes ouvertes. Programme de recherche, ENSBA, Paris ARCO’01”. Galería Max Estrella, Madrid
2000	“Open Spaces”. ARCO’01, Madrid “Art Cologne”. Galería Max Estrella, Köln “Evolueart.com, Madrid & Barcelona”. Comisario: Eugenio Ampudia, “Insumisiones” Fundación Marcelino Botín, Santader. Comisario: Alicia Murria “Toy Stories”. Sala Amadis, Madrid (Injuve). Comisario: Fernando Castro “ARCO 2000”. Galería Max Estrella, Madrid
1999	“FuturoPresente”. Salas de Exposiciones de la Plaza de España, Madrid. “Comisario”: Alicia Murria “Abracadabra”. TATE Gallery of Modern Art, Londres. Commissaires: Catherine Grenier et Catherine Kinley
1998	“ARCO’99”. Galería Marta Cervera, Madrid “Germinations”. The Factory, Athènes “Gramercy Park”. Marta Cervera, New York “ARCO’98” Galería Marta Cervera, Madrid “ARCO Collection”. CEGAC, Santiago de Compostela “Espacios Mentales”. Zona de Acción Temporal, Madrid “La Voladura del Maine”. Sala PEMASA, Madrid “Llocs Lliures”. Altea, Alicante
1997	“Conjunto Vacío”. Sala PEMASA “Muestra de Arte Joven”. MEAC, Madrid “ARCO’97”. Galería Marta Cervera, Madrid “Crias de Polvo”. Facultad BBAA, Madrid
1996	“Circuitos” – Comunidad de Madrid. Itinerante Madrid / UK “Dibujos”. Marta Cervera. Madrid
1994	“Walking Behind the Glass”. LAICPS, Los Angeles. Commissaire: José Álvaro Perdices “Uno Cada Uno”. Galería Juana de Aizpuru, Madrid