

MAI 36 GALERIE

Flavio Garciandía – 10 years (2009 - 2019)

Opening: Thursday, March 7, 2019, 6 to 8 p.m.
Exhibition: March 8 - April 20, 2019
Hours: Tues-Fri 11 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., Sat 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

10 years (2009 - 2019) is the third exhibition of the work by the outstanding Cuban-Mexican artist Flavio Garciandía to be hosted at Mai 36. Flavio Garciandía was born in Caibarién, Cuba in 1954 and ranks as one of the leading and most influential Cuban artists of the past four decades. His influence stems from a wide-ranging oeuvre that includes painting, drawing and installations. As *hombre del trópico*, he articulates from a critical point of view the hierarchical relationships of the modern canon and he has shaped generations of artists both within Cuba and beyond.

For more than three decades, Garciandía has been crafting a form of visual communication that ranges from the most intimate of whispers to blatantly witty and outlandish mockery, by deploying the tools of abstraction as the supreme modern paradigm of western painting. Accordingly, the work of Garciandía is teeming with subtle visual and textual references to culture, by distorting, dissembling and altering its figurative remnants. For him, *Appropriation Art* is more than just a creative method; it is a sophisticated system that reveals just how he regards the construction of knowledge, aesthetic syntax and art appreciation generally as a processual juxtaposition of layers, like a palimpsest. This is one way of interpreting his creative approach to the language of images and signs.

With pleasure, humor and eroticism as key elements in an unlocking mechanism, Garciandía transforms an entangled scaffold into a unique, very intimate model in which a newly found transparency consolidates a slower art-making. A tempo that enables him to activate the static phase of the abstract painting and his contemplative zeal in *new tropical abstraction*. The latter is a verbal and verbalizing form of paints – an active form of painting. It suppurates, sweats, drips, ejaculates and bleeds, even though it was created with the most aseptic of artistic materials (acrylic, ink, pencil, felt pen and pigments).

A living abstraction. One that embodies neither the coolness of geometry nor the warmth of neo-expressionism. Instead, it defined by the warmth of our flesh, the temperature of our body.

The exhibition, featuring more than twenty works on the first and second floors of the gallery, offers a unique opportunity to admire the creative developments of a decade and, with that, the transition to a thoroughly mature, liberated and quite phenomenal oeuvre. As the artist noted recently on a visit to his studio in Mexico City: "After more than four decades of painting, this may well be definitely my most personal work."

Garciandía has lived in Mexico since the early 1990s.

(text by Omar-Pascual Castillo)

The opening is on Thursday, March 7, 2019 from 6 to 8 p.m. Flavio Garciandía will be present.

Visual materials are available on request (office@mai36.com).

We look forward to seeing you at the gallery and thank you for your interest.

Mai 36 Galerie
Victor Gisler

March 2019