

EUGENIO MERINO

Home Swiss Home

From may 20th to august 11th 2017

Opening: 20th may at 12h



It seems that humankind assists in the spectacle of his imagination. It contemplates how the tragic certainty of a birthplace lack can transform spaces into magical lands.

In a capitalist society, magical places end up being tax havens. Touristic spaces oscillating between a two-day-getaway to disconnect and a peregrination to a holy city. These new destinies offer the tourist a feeling of comfort, exoticism, exclusivity, aspiration and superiority, opposite to the mass that cannot afford the same trip experience and action. This is only available to a few wealthy or lucky ones. Tax havens are configured as theme parks (as the non-places Marc Augé talked about) erected for pleasure. There, tourists delight themselves with a world designed for them and by them, even if they are not fully aware of it.

In this sense, **Eugenio Merino** reproduces a faux souvenir of current tax havens, the axis of the exhibition at **ADN Galeria**: the Bahamas, Luxembourg, Cayman Islands or Switzerland, the latter being the title of the show. Switzerland is, according to Falciani, "the best manager of untaxed money". Merino uses deck chairs embroidered with the flags of these territories to exhibit the close relationship between tax haven and sensory pleasure; to show tax evasion as an orgasmic action, a unique experience.

Maybe buying a souvenir implies acquiring an object that, up to a certain extent, implies a ritual ceremony. It implies carrying home a fragment of the Other, a side of the Other that, in the end, signifies its totality.

The souvenir is a sort of personal justification and a symbol of the tourist's social dominance. The trip itself is a colonizer act and the economic transaction maximizes the adjective. Tax havens are generators of economic borders and their clients are soldiers given to the cause. Together they maintain a banking system that stems and perpetuates inequality. Their shield is a practically unbreakable secrecy. Merino points out and reveals issues that revolve around the legislation's inefficiency, its permissiveness and its passivity. His work language, based on irony and popular imagination, serves this purpose.

Merino maintains the premise that one can be in the Bahamas without having to be physically in the place. The touristic experience is enjoyed by money, and in turn the tourist/client enjoys it as an extension of money itself. It's not magic, it is corruption, although there is something inexplicable in its legal consent. The movie *Now You See Me* (2003) shows how a group of illusionists subtract money from the banks while enlivening their shows elsewhere in the world, trying to keep people's attention away from their activity. The parallelism between tax haven and magic land is not far-fetched in the end: making money disappear is a feasible task when its information (as well as the money itself) is fragmented enough so that nobody knows where it is or where it comes from. At the end of the film, the tricks of the illusionists are revealed. Will everything that tax havens hide come to light some day? Falciani opens a door; Merino shows it.

Why do we spend the summers at Marina d'Or, the massive Spanish resort, when you can do it in Switzerland? You will feel at home there. Welcome to Switzerland; welcome home.



Eugenio Merino (Madrid, España)

Eugenio Merino's work is balanced between beliefs and disbelief, paradox and logics, taste and bad taste, respect and offense. The artist often assumes a cynical role and reveals uncomfortable visions of contemporary societies. His production focuses in the reinterpretation and in the contempt of icons related to politics, art and religion. Across neorealist sculpture, painting, drawings or installations Merino denounce a world based on the rapid item consumed of images and on the media representation. His productions reinterpret and look down on them in a satiric play, with an added sense of acid irony and discursive sarcasm. He finds inspiration in a popular imaginary and mass media which he combines with dialectical, metaphorical and metonymical means to assemble his artworks. The opposition of different realities, as well as disparate referents and symbols, also generate different possible ways of reading his artistic production.

Eugenio Merino has recently exhibited in New York, in Santiago de Chile, at the Station Museum in Texas, the TEA in Tenerife, the Positive Propaganda Art Space in Munich, at the Villa Empain-Fondation Boghossian in Brussels and the Barjola Museum, in Gijón. Merino has participated in several collective exhibitions in the U.S, Spain, Switzerland, Holland, Germany, Belgium, Finland, Mexico and Italy. His artworks could be seen at the B.P.S.22 in Charleroi, the Festival Lens Política – Film and Media Art Festival, or the MOCA in Taipei, among others.

Solo shows

- 2017 *Home Swiss Home*. Adn Galería, Barcelona. Spain.
Aquí murió Picasso. Alianza francesa de Málaga. Málaga, Spain.
Suiza patria querida. Sala de exposiciones la Rambleta. Valencia, Spain.
- 2016 *Sons of Capital (Hijos del Capital)*. Unix Gallery, New York, U.S
- 2015 *Will Work for Fast Food*, Unix Gallery, Houston - Texas, U.S
- 2014 *Always Shameless*, Unix Fine Arts, New York, USA.
- 2013 *V de Verdugos*, Louis 21, Madrid, Spain.
- 2012 *Election time*, Unix Fine Art, New York, EE.UU.
Celebrating Destruction, Jerome Zodo Gallery. Milan, Italy
- 2010 *We Don't Need Another Hero*, ADN Galería. Barcelona, Spain
- 2009 VOLTA NY, ADN Galería's booth, New York, USA
- 2008 *Global Warming*, ADN Galería. Barcelona, Spain (catalogue)
- 2006 *Mondolirondo*, Galería T20. Murcia, Spain
Mondolirondo, Galería Valle Orti. Valencia, Spain
- 2004 *Playtime*, Galería T20. Murcia, Spain
Playtime, Galería La Fábrica. Madrid, Spain
That's art Folks, Galería Cavecanem. Sevilla, Spain
Neverland, Sala Carlos III. Pamplona, Spain
- 2003 *Histeria del Arte*, Foro Sur, Galería T20. Cáceres, Spain
- 2002 *Artoon*, Galería T20. Murcia, Spain
Freakshow, Galería Bores y Mallo. Cáceres, Spain
- 2000 *Toontoon*, Hotel y Arte, Galería T20. Murcia, Spain
Obra muy reciente, Galería T20. Murcia, Spain

Group shows

- 2017
Art Brussels, ADN Galeria booth. Brussels, Belgium
ARCO, ADN Galeria booth. Madrid, Spain.
REACT. Peanut Gallery, New York, U.S.A.
- 2016
Volta12, ADN Galeria booth. Basel, Switzerland.
Yes I Can, curated by Sébastien Planas. Perpignan, Centre d'Art Walter Benjamin, France.
¿Quién es ese hombre? Curated by Adonay Bermúdez. TEA Tenerife Espacio de las Artes, Tenerife, Spain.
ArtBrussels, ADN Galeria. Brussels, Belgium
A Certain Urge, curated by Blanca de la Torre. EFA Foundation, Nueva York, USA.
Arte Vs Publicidad, curated by Ana Garcia Alarcón. Paraninfo de la Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain
Los Dictadores (el poder subversivo del arte), TEA, Tenerife, Canary Island, Spain.
ARCOMadrid, ADN Galería's booth, Madrid, Spain.
Otra puta feria más, Galería 6mas1. Madrid, Spain
- 2015
Por el buen camino, curated by Antonio Lobo. SLOWTRACK Gallery. Madrid, Spain
Corporacy, Station Museum of Contemporary Art. Houston, U.S.
Nepotismo ilustrado. Juan Francisco Casas & Cia, Galería Fernando Pradilla. Madrid, Spain
Art International ISTANBUL, ADN Galeria. Istanbul, Turkey
Íntimos extraños: la política como celebridad, la celebridad como política, curated by Paco Barragán., Centro Cultural Matucana 100, Santiago de Chile, Chile
2050. Une Brève Histoire de l'avenir, Musées royaux des Beaux-Arts. Brussels, Belgium
ArtBrussels, ADN Galeria booth. Brussels, Belgium
Lenguajes en papel, Galería Fernando Pradilla. Madrid, Spain
ARCO Madrid, ADN Galeria. Madrid, Spain
To shave or not to shave, Alianza Francesa de Málaga. Málaga, Spain
Eugenio Merino, Positivie Propaganda Art Space. Munich, Germany
- 2014
ArtRio, adn galeria. Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
Tiempo de progreso, Museo Barjola. Gijón, Spain
Entre deux chaises un livre, Villa Empain, Brussels, Belgium
Knock! Knock!, Galería Javier López, Madrid, Spain.
VOLTA 10, adn galería, Basel, Switzerland.
Invitados a la realidad, Galería Punto, Valencia, Spain.
ArtBrussels, adn galería, Brussels, Belgium.
Entre deux chaises un livre, Villa Empain, Brussels, Belgium.
ARCO, adn galeria. Madrid, Spain
- 2013
Scope Art Fair New York 2013, New York, USA
Tiempos Canallas. Galería Mecánica, Sevilla, Spain

- 2012 *Art&Toys – Collection Selim Varol, me Collectors Room*, Berlín, Germany.
In me. The paradox of liberty, curated by Paco Barragán, Castrum Peregrini, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
Deus-Dei (Super-Ego), curated by Adonay Bermúdez, Círculo de Bellas Artes de Tenerife, Tenerife, Canary Islands.
De héroes y travesías, Retratos de la colección La Naval en ARQUA, ARQUA – Museo nacional de arqueología subacuática, Cartagena, Spain.
Sculpture Quadrennial Riga 2012, Riga, Latvia.
11a Biennal Martínez Guerricabeitia, Guerricabeitia, Patronat Martínez Guerricabeitia, Valencia, Spain.
Extraradios, curated by comisariado por Jose Luis Corazón, Fundación Mustang, Madrid, Spain.
- 2011 *El Ruido de las Burbujas*, El Matadero, Madrid, Spain.
Lens Política – Film and Media Art Festival, curated by Nina Toppila, Helsinki, Finland.
Olor. Color. Química Arte y Pedagogía. Arts Santa Monica, Barcelona, Spain.
SWAB, ADN Galería's booth, Barcelona, Spain
Art Barter Madrid, C Arte C, Madrid, Spain
ARCO, ADN Galería's booth, Madrid, Spain
Artefiera, ADN Galería's booth, Bologna, Italy
- 2010 VOLTA BASEL, ADN Galería's booth, Basel, Switzerland
SWAB, ADN Galería's booth, Barcelona, Spain
One Shot! Football & Art Contemporain, B.P.S.22, Charleroi, Belgium
Scratch, ADN Galería, Barcelona, Spain
UTOPIA? L' Art amb els Drets Humans, itinerant in Mallorca, Spain
- 2009 *Animamix*, MOCA Taipei, Taiwan
Slick, ADN Galería's booth, Paris, France
VOLTA BASEL 09, ADN Galería's booth, Basel, Switzerland
Le mythe et la marque Che Guevara, Galerie Suty, Paris, France
- 2008 *Querida Corrupción*, Espacio Trapezio. Madrid, Spain
ARCO, ADN Galería's booth, Madrid, Spain
La comunidad desbordada, Pabellón Mixtos, Ciudadela, Pamplona, Spain
- 2007 Slick, stand ADN Galería, París, France
Arte Santander, stand ADN Galería, Santander, Spain
5 is Only a Number, ADN Galería, Barcelona, Spain
- 2006 SWAB Art Fair, stand ADN Galería, Barcelona, Spain
Art Brussels, stand ADN Galería, Bruselas, Belgium
ARCO, stand Galería T20, Madrid, Spain
Pop.7, Galería Suty, Burdeos-París, France
Esculturismo, Madrid, Spain
S.O.S. 4.8, festival de arte, Murcia, Spain
Next, stand Galería T20, Chicago, USA.

- 2005 ARCO, Galería T20's booth, Madrid, Spain
Dfoto, Galería T20's booth, San Sebastián, Spain
Maco, Galería T20's booth, Mexico
Foro Sur, Galería T20's booth, Cáceres, Spain
Bâlelatina, Galería T20's booth, Basel, Switzerland
- 2004 ARCO, Galería T20's booth, Madrid, Spain
Cinco, Galería T20, Murcia, Spain
Colectiva, Galería Cavecanem, Sevilla, Spain
Foro Sur, Galería T20's booth, Cáceres, Spain
Valencia art, Galería T20's booth, Valencia, Spain
Artsalamanca, Galería T20's booth, Salamanca, Spain
Freakylandia, Galería T20, Murcia, Spain
- 2003 ARCO, Galería T20 and Galería La Fábrica's booth, Madrid, Spain
Fiera di Genova, Galería Lipanjepuntin's booth, Genova, Italy
ARCO, ADN Galería's booth, Madrid, Spain
Artefiera, ADN Galería's booth, Bologna, Italy
FIAC, Galería La Fábrica's booth, Paris, France
The Armory Show, Nina Menocal Gallery's booth, New York, USA
Foro Sur, Galería T20's booth, Cáceres, Spain
Instinto, Galería Fúcares, Almagro, Spain
Arte y Cine, Galería Espacio Líquido, Gijón, Spain
- 2002 ARCO, stand Galería T20, Madrid, Spain
Foro Sur, stand Galería T20, Cáceres, Spain
Heterogénesis, Galería Espacio Líquido, Gijón, Spain
Artissima, stand Galería T20, Turín, Italy
El tamaño no importa, Galería T20, Murcia, Spain.

Curatorial Projects

- 2005 *Cinco*, Galería T20. Murcia, Spain
Freakylandia, Galería T20, Murcia, Spain
- 2004 *Instinto*, Galería Fúcares, Madrid, Spain

ARCO, ADN Galería's booth, Madrid, Spain
Artefiera, ADN Galería's booth, Bologna, Italy
FIAC, Galería La Fábrica's booth, Paris, France
The Armory Show, Nina Menocal Gallery's booth, New York, USA
Foro Sur, Galería T20's booth, Cáceres, Spain
Instinto, Galería Fúcares, Almagro, Spain
Arte y Cine, Galería Espacio Líquido, Gijón, Spain

2002

ARCO, stand Galería T20, Madrid, Spain
Foro Sur, stand Galería T20, Cáceres, Spain
Heterogénesis, Galería Espacio Líquido, Gijón, Spain
Artissima, stand Galería T20, Turín, Italy
El tamaño no importa, Galería T20, Murcia, Spain.

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Horarios de apertura al público :

Lunes de 15 a 20h

Martes a viernes de 10h a 20h

Sábado de 11h a 14h y de 17h a 20h30

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