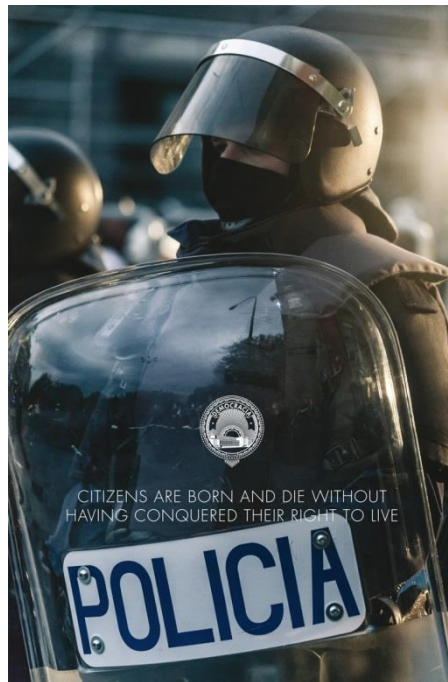


DEMOCRACIA

We protect you from yourselves

From October 3rd to November 11th 2014

Opening: Friday October 3rd from 6:30pm



Citizens are born and die without having conquered their right to live, 2013

Globalization brings with it a feeling of mistrust, rejection and powerlessness towards the mechanisms of government and political power. This turns into a crisis that alters our perception of events such as social conflicts, economic crises, wars, violence, catastrophes, etc. In the face of this scenario, a group of intellectuals, artists, activists and citizens are backing a form of commitment which makes different kinds of abuse in society a central theme and which counteracts them with oppositional and imaginative social models. Often, against the cynicism that dominates global capitalism, they not only establish an attitude of protest and opposition but also generate growing interest in building a new collective action space within existing social structures, combining ideology and imagination, in order to express a will that is anti-system, anti-capitalist and anti-state through actions that try both to make visible and to undermine power.

Within this context, DEMOCRACIA explores different power structures and the status of the spectator through its work and through its public interventions in the cultural, urban and socio-political space of democratic societies. Performances which provoke subversive and critical situations that take place in the context of the city understood as a space of conflict. Political and social reflection is a constant element in DEMOCRACIA's work, commandeering aspects of consumer culture – archetypes of mass culture – and strong theoretical foundations in which they refer to philosophers, thinkers and activists as a basis of a narrative that seeks to re-define aspects of the public urban space.

In *We protect you from yourselves*, DEMOCRACIA encourages the spectator to reflect on the tension and action characteristic of their practices – practices which are positioned as a crisis of contemporary contradictions between the subject and the historical context.

The exhibition begins with the question *Ist eine Welt ohne Polizei möglich?* (Is a world without police possible?). This piece consists of two silkscreen prints accompanied by a copy of the German police union's journal *Deutsche Polizei*. The first print reproduces an advertisement that the DEMOCRACIA collective placed in the German magazine under the heading *Ist eine Welt ohne Polizei möglich?* In the second, we read a text in German that answers the question that the artists have posed, by means of a children's poem by Russian writer Sergei Mikhalkov, a poet whose verses advocated communist ideology.

The slogan that gives the exhibition its title – We protect you from yourselves – is represented by the image of a member of the riot police, a familiar image that speaks to us of the spectacle of repression by Spain's political power, whose oppressive perspective targets any social or political initiative that is antagonistic to our system. The collective seizes the rhetoric of advertising in order to design a campaign which superimposes on the image of the riot policeman phrases taken from a text written – at the artists' request – by the philosopher and former military policeman Luis Navarro. The work is complemented by three copies of French magazine *Tribune de Lyon* in which this campaign was included as part of the advertising.

The next piece, *16 retratos* [16 portraits], consists of a series of portraits of policemen. All these pictures transmit to viewers a paradoxical image, which both presents an "untouchable" and "impenetrable" figure and suggests an intimate approach to his face and his identity.



16 portraits, 2014

Finally, in the back room we can see the video *Aquí no hay espectadores* [There are no spectators here], accompanied by a banner. This work shows the respective routines of a group of ultras (Los Panzers) and Chilean police before going to the football stadium – a new "black hole" as Piedad Solans points out in her essay *Public and violence in the age of global performance* (2010), a space which memory forgot, a space of global trash, where a ritualized confrontation takes place between the two sides. The vast majority of the Panzers are the children and grandchildren of those who were locked up during Pinochet's dictatorship in one of the locations used as detention and torture centers, such as this very stadium of Playa Ancha, in Valparaíso, where this particular action takes place. The Panzers, who see in this sport not only a show and a business but also a form of community organization, display a banner with the slogan *Aquí no hay espectadores*, a motto created from their collaboration with DEMOCRACIA, which refers to the denial of the concept of the viewer as a passive agent. This work sets out the fact that architectures of control such as this one are metaphors for the rise of social repression – in this case, the strict laws concerning sports, which impose a state of emergency on the ultras that are increasingly moving throughout the entire society.



There are no spectators here,, 2010

All these works represent a reflection on the space of the polis, because the city is the main stage of the capitalist system in which we are immersed. As Toni Negri would say "Resistance starts with finding the common reality of our lives". What capacity does art have to represent reality in the current capitalist system? What is the place of art in a society absorbed by the spectacle? Following this approach, this exhibition explores the always difficult relationship between art, society and politics as well as art's ability to understand the complex reality of the society in which we live.

DEMOCRACIA _ Biography

Work team formed in Madrid (Spain) by Pablo España and Iván López.

The decision to work as a group springs from the intention of engaging in an artistic practice centered on discussion and the clash of ideas and forms of action. The fact of working in a group in itself establishes an interest in intervening in the social sphere, by means of ideas of commitment to the real. The projects reflect a concern with the progressive setting of scenes of social life; visible, in the increasing importance of the image, and also in the gradual incorporation of the simulacrum in the different realms of daily life, such as politics, technology, and culture. Also Democracia works in publishing (they are directors of Nolens Volens magazine) and curatorial projects (No Futuro, Madrid Abierto 2008, Creador de Dueños, Useful Art). They were founders and part of El Perro group (1989-2006)



Individual exhibitions

2014

We protect you from yourselves, ADN Galeria. Barcelona, Spain
VIVA 2014. St James Cavalier Centre for Creativity. La Valleta, Malta
Welfare State: Smash the Ghetto, Collective Reaction, Foto Fest 2014, The Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, United States.

2013

Powerlessness, a situation. Democracia, Revolutie & Polizey, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt am Main, Germany.
Il n'y a pas de spectateurs, curated by Perrine Lacroix. La BF15. Lyon, France.

2012

Black Box. Hirshhorn Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, U.S.A.
Ser y Durar, ADN Galeria, Barcelona, Spain.
Ser y Durar. Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea. Videoteca GAM, Torino, Italy.
Ser y Durar, VIVACOM Art Hall, Sofia, Bulgaria

2011

Ser y Durar, Prometeogallery di Ida Pisani, Milan, Italy.
Ser y Durar (1812_2012. Una mirada contemporánea). MEIAC, Badajoz, Spain.

2010

Libertad para los muertos, Espacio Marzana, Bilbao, Spain.
LOOP 2010, ADN Galería, Barcelona, Spain.
Contra el público, curated by Piedad Solans, Fundación Pilar y Joan Miró, Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

2009

Ne vous laissez pas consoler, ADN Galería, Barcelona, Spain.
Subtextos, Intervention in the public space, Cartagena, Spain.

Welfare State, Roodkapje, Rotterdam, Holland.
Sin Estado, Galería ADN, Barcelona. Santiago Cirugeda- Todo por La Praxis-Democracia

2008
Todos sois culpables salvo yo, Galería T20, Murcia, Spain.
Smash the ghetto, Caprice Horn Gallery, Berlin, Germany.
Welfare State, Prometeogallery-Chiesa di San Matteo, Lucca, Italy.
Charity, Prometeogallery-Via dei Asigli, Lucca, Italy.
Welfare State, Salvador Díaz Gallery, Madrid, Spain.

Group exhibitions

2014
VIVA - the Valletta International Visual Arts Festival. La Valletta, Malta.
¿A qué huele una exposición? LABORal Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial. Gijón, Spain Playful Arts Festival, 's-Hertogenbosch, Holland Monte de Estepar, Espacio Tangente, Burgos, Spain
VOLTA 10, and galería's booth, Basel, Switzerland.
One Shot! Football & Contemporary Art. MuBE. Sao Paulo, Brazil.
Accomplices and Witnesses, adn galería, Barcelona, Spain.
The Kennedy Bunker, REH-transformer, Berlin, Germany.
Tiempos Abiertos, curated by Enrique Martínez, CEART, Fuenlabrada, Spain.
Joan Miró's Printmaking Workshops National Museum of Bulgarian Visual Arts, Sofia, Bulgaria.
Inquieto Novecento - Lu.C.C.A - Lucca Center of Contemporary Art, Lucca, Italy
Tiempos Abiertos, curated by Enrique Martínez, Da2, Salamanca, Spain.
ARCO Madrid, Spain.

2013
The Red and White flag Project - Teloglion Foundation of Art, Thessaloniki, Greece
Videoarte al Cinemacello, Macao, Milan, Italy.
MOVING_IMAGE un abécédaire contemporain. M comme MANIPULATION Les Rencontres Internationales, Gaîté Lyrique, Paris, France
Un dilema. L'art contemporani i la inversió en la incertesa, curated by Jeffrey Swartz. Arts Santa Mònica, Barcelona, Spain.
Contrechamp. Archi béton - Trois films où l'on lit et relie l'urbain, Le Cinématographe, Nantes, France.
Manifiestos curated by Ana G. Alarcón, El Butrón, Sevilla, Spain.
Joan Miró's Printmaking Workshops Galerija Kresija, 30th Ljubljana Biennial of Graphic Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia.
Videos on Stage: Parallel Lines, curated by Başak Senova. Art International Istanbul (Turkey)
High Society, curated by Fernando Gómez de la Cuesta. Pelaires CCC, Palma de Mallorca (Spain)
Baadlands: An Atlas of Experimental Cartography, curated by Zanny Begg, Tin Sheds Gallery, Sidney, Australia.
Marca España. ECC, Berlin, Germany
Diversionismo Ideológico, curated by Wendy Navarro, Galeria Nuble, Santander, Spain.
Jornadas contra Franco, Madrid, Spain.
Stadium. Arc en rêve, Bordeaux, France.
10 is more than a number. ADN, Barcelona, Spain.
Exercises on democracy. Open case 303, Athens, Greece.
Talleres de la Fundació Pilar i Joan Miró. Ses Voltes, Palma de Mallorca, Spain.
Politics: I do not like it, but it likes me, curated by Dermis León & Agnieszka Kulazinska. Laznia Centre for Contemporary Art, Gdansk, Poland.

Zona Maco 2013, Prometeo gallery di Ida Pisani, Mexico DF, Mexico.

La elipsis arquitectónica curated by Ruth Estévez & Javier Toscano. Centro Cultural Universitario Tlatelolco, Mexico DF, Mexico.

ARCO 2013, Galería ADN, Madrid, Spain.

Manifiestos curated by Ana G. Alarcón, Espacio Trapezio, Madrid, Spain.

Me, Myself and I. Concurso de dibujo de la Fundación Centenera Jaraba, La Lonja, Madrid, Spain.

8ª Bienal Leandre Cristofol, LLeida, Spain.

Soul Activism, curated by Maurizio Vanni, Centro Documentazione Arti Visive, Chiesa dei Bigi, Grosseto, Italy.

2012

ESPEJOS. El Camino Incierto al País de las Maravillas, curated by Loreto Garín & Federico Zuckerfeld. Centro Cultural de la Memoria Haroldo Conti, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Apocalypse, inSPIRACJE 2012, curated by Wojciech Ciesielski, Szczecin, Poland

Motel b, nuovi spazi per nuove idee, Motel b, Brescia, Italy

Art Brussels 2012, ADN Galeria, Brussels, Belgium.

Video in the City, Art Brussels 2012, Prometeogallery, Brussels, Belgium

Revolve. European Media Art Festival, Osnabrück, Germany

ARCO 2012, ADN Galeria / Prometeo Gallery / T 20, Madrid, Spain.

Teatro de Anatomía, RMS, El Espacio, curated by RMS, Madrid, Spain.

Premio Ciutat de Palma "Antoni Gelabert" de Artes Visuales 2011, Casal Solleric, Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

Extraradios, curated by Jose Luis Corazón, Mustang Art Gallery, Elche (Alicante), Spain.

Valparaiso Intervenciones, curated by Jorge Díez, José Roca and Paulina Varas, Casa America, Madrid, Spain

2011

Un altro mondo è ancora possibile?, curated by Francesca Guerisoli and Stefano Taccone, Palazzo Ducale, Sala Dogana, Genoa, Italy.

Is this Spain?, Instituto Cervantes, Rome, Italy.

Is this Spain?, Instituto Cervantes, Naples, Italy.

Video(S)torias, Curated by Blanca de la Torre & Imma Prieto, ARTIUM-Centro Museo Vasco de Arte Contemporáneo, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain.

Reproduction, Repetition and Rebellion. Multiplicity in Spanish Emerging Art. Akademija & Windows Gallery, Belgrado, Serbia.

Is this Spain?, Instituto Cervantes, Milano, Italy Arco 11, Prometeogallery di Ida Pisani, Madrid, Spain

Arco 11, Galeria T20, Madrid, Spain

Reproduction, Repetition and Rebellion. Multiplicity in Spanish Emerging Art. International Graphic Arts Centre (MGLC), Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Patria o Libertad, curated by Paco Barragán, Cobra Museum, Amsterdam, Holland.

RES PUBLICAE, Intervenciones del capitalismo en el videoarte español actual, curated by José Luis Corazón, Off Limits, Madrid, Spain.

Hors Pistes 2011, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France.

RES PUBLICAE, Intervenciones del capitalismo en el videoarte español actual, curated by José Luis Corazón, Cura

Magazine Projet Space, Roma, Italy.

Reproduction, Repetition and Rebellion. Multiplicity in Spanish Emerging Art, The Contemporary Art Gallery of the Brukenthal National Museum, Sibiu, Romania

2010

Catalizadors, curated by Ramon Parramon, Arts Santa Mónica, Barcelona, Spain.

Erased Walls, curated by Juraj Čarný, SPACE, Bratislava, Slovakia. Impakt video festival, Utrecht, Holland.

Patria o Libertad, curated by Paco Barragán, Miami Dade College, Art System Gallery, Miami, USA.
Proyecto Juárez, curated by Mariana David, Museo Carrillo Gil, Mexico DF, Mexico.
VAD. Festival internacional de videoarte, Girona, Spain.
Basado en hechos reales, Artium, Vitoria, Spain. Interacciones (post) electorales, curated by Domingo Mestre & Joaquín Ivars, Centro Cultural de España, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
Biennale Mediations 2010, Erased Walls, curated by Georgi Begun, Poznan, Poland.
Interacciones (post) electorales, curated by Domingo Mestre & Joaquín Ivars, Museo de Medios de Comunicación, Resistencia, Argentina.
Volta 6, Basel, Switzerland, ADN gallery / T20 gallery.
FUCK UPS, FABLES AND FIASCOS, Caprice Horn Galerie, Berlin, Germany.
Interacciones (post) electorales, curated by Domingo Mestre & Joaquín Ivars, Centro Cultural de España, Córdoba, Argentina.
Loop 2010, Galeria ADN, Barcelona, Spain.
Reproduction, Repetition and Rebellion. Multiplicity in Spanish Emerging Art. Cervantes Intitute of Viena, Austria.
Spain on the edge. Limits of a narrative conflict, curated by Nacho Ruíz, Instituto Cervantes, Chicago, USA.
Art Brussels 2010, ADN Galería, Brussels, Belgium
The Performance Platform, Art Brussels 2010, Brussels, Belgium.
Rencontres Internationales Paris/Madrid/Berlin, CAPITALISMUS, Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain.
Idensitat 5, Manresa, Spain.
Interruptions, curated by Raúl Martínez, Art-Bus, Armory Show 2010, New York, USA.
One Shot, curated by Pierre-Olivier Rollin, B.P.S.22 espace de création contemporaine, Charleroi, Belgium.
Valparaiso Intervenciones, curated by José Roca, Jorge Díez and Paulina Varas, Valparaiso, Chile.
ARCO, Galeria Caprice Horn, Madrid, Spain.
ARCO, Galeria T20, Madrid, Spain.
Repeat All, curated by Sigismond de Vajay, Cultural Centre Chacao, Caracas, Venezuela.
Proyecto Habitar, curated by Luisa Espino, Cultural Centre of Spain, Montevideo, Uruguay.
X Bienal Martínez Guerricabeitia 'Contra natura', Museo de la Ciudad de Valencia, Spain.
Reality Now, Concenterart e. v., Berlin, Germany.

2009

Scracht, ADN Galería, Barcelona, Spain.
Frágil, curated by Nekane Aramburu, Cultural Centre of Spain, Montevideo, Uruguay.
Rencontres Internationales, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France.
Reciprocidad, curated by Loreto Garín & Federico Zukerfeld, Cultural Centre of Spain, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
Fora de joc, Bòlit Centre d'Art Contemporani, Girona, Spain.
Proyecto Habitar, curated by Luisa Espino, Cultural Centre of Spain, Miami, USA.
Evento 09, curated by Didier Fiuza Faustino, Bordeaux, France.
¿UTOPÍA?. El arte con los derechos humanos, Casal Son Tugores, Alaró, Mallorca, Spain.
Off Street, A Foundation, London, United Kingdom. Is this Spain?, Saint Pancras Crypt Gallery, London, United Kingdom.
There goes the neighbourhood, Performance Space, Sidney, Australia.
Undergentryfication, curated by José Luis Corazón Ardura, Cultural Centre of Spain, Santo Domingo. Dominican Republic. Trickle Down Theory, Curated by Riiko Sakkinen, Korjaamo, Helsinki, Finland. La comunidad desbordada, curated by José Luis Corazón Ardura, Ciudadela, Pamplona, Spain. X La Habana Bienal, Tinieblas. Poéticas del vídeo sobre la violencia, curated by Manuel García, Complejo morro Cabaña, La Habana, Cuba. 6th Edition of the Circus Project, curated by Ada Azor, Arts, Health and Society, Estadio Deportivo del Hospital Psiquiátrico de La Habana, Cuba.

Estado de Excepción, curated by Tania Bruguera, Galería La Habana, La Habana, Cuba. Stand Up, Zak Gallery, Poznan, Poland. La comunidad desbordada, Pabellón Mixtos, Ciudadela, Pamplona, Spain.
Cidades do mar / Cidades imaginarias, curated by Manuel García, Instituto Cervantes, Salvador de Bahia, Brazil.
ARCO, Galería T20, Madrid, Spain.
Repeat all, Museu da Imagem e do Som do Estado de São Paulo, Brazil.
Sin Estado, with Todo por la Praxis y Santiago Cirugeda, ADN Galería, Barcelona, Spain.

2008

Taipei-Beirut-Madrid-Berlín-Isola, Isola Art Center, Milan, Italy.
Ruidocracia, Cañete 7, Madrid, Spain.
PhotoMiami, Galería ADN, Miami, USA.
Artissima, Prometeogallery, Torino, Italy.
Wa(h)re Kunst, Concentrarte v., Berlin, Germany.
La Otra, Bogotá, Colombia.
Taipei Biennial 2008, curated by Manray Hsu and Vasif Kortun Taipei, Taiwan.
Certamen Internacional de Artes Plásticas, Museu de Pollença, Mallorca, Spain.
The Promised Land, curated by Blanca de la Torre, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, USA.
Castigador Ortomático, El Gallo Arte, Salamanca, Spain.
Imágenes multimedia de un mundo complejo, Sala de exposiciones Santa Inés, Sevilla, Spain.
Everstill, curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist, Casa Museo Federico Garcia Lorca, Granada, Spain.
Undergentryfication, LP Projects, New York, USA.
Interacciones Electorales, Off Limits, Madrid, Spain.
ARCO, Salvador Díaz Gallery, Madrid, Spain.

2007

Outsourcing (The invisible hand), Monkey Town, New York, USA.
Photo Miami, Caprice Horn Gallery, Miami, USA.
Artissima, Prometeo gallery, Torino, Italy.
Tomorrow, curated by Sumjung Kim. Kumho Museum. Seoul, Korea.
10 th Istanbul Biennial, Not Only Possible, But Also Necessary - Optimism in the age of global war, curated by Hou Hanru. Istanbul, Turkey.
Goteborg Biennial, Rethinking Dissent – on the limitations of politics and the possibilities of resistance, curated by Joa Ljungberg and Edi Muka. Gotteborg, Sweden.
Reality Bites, Caprice Horn Gallery, Berlin, Germany.
Entresijos y Gallinejas, curated by RMS La Asociación. Centro de Arte Santa Mónica, Barcelona, Spain.
No Futuro, Organización Nelson Garrido, Caracas, Venezuela.
Anamnesis, políticas de la Memoria, Bienal de Valencia, Spain.
Domestico 07, Doméstico en las ondas, Radio Nacional de España, Radio 3, Madrid, Spain.
ARCO, Galeria Salvador Díaz, Madrid, Spain.

2006

Slums, curated by Peter Weibel, Neue Galerie, Graz, Austria