

MARC BADIA
"Son buenas tardes si nadie dice gilipolleces"

Venue

L21 Barcelona
C/ Isaac Peral, 7, 2º
08902 L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Barcelona

Dates

November 13th – January 17th
Opening: November 13th 18h

"All we have are ruined memories
Ruined dreams
Ruined pasts"

Bing Austria and The Flippin' Soul Stompers, Ruined Heart, 2015

Marc Badia (1984, Barcelona) explores the relationship between history, contemporary culture and dystopia. The artist creates a dynamic dialogue between destruction and creation, redefining elements of the past in a new context through the absurd. In some way, the past and the present are connected through a kind of visual archaeology that can even lead to dystopia.

His work poses a fascinating question: what happens when multiple versions of the past and the present coexist, in an almost multiversal sense, within the same piece or space? In this sense, and taking up another central influence in his work, Badia turns the tradition of painting into fertile ground for sampling, where, as in hip hop music, references from other authors are mixed with his own to generate unexpected meanings. In fact, the very title of the exhibition, "Son buenas tardes si nadie dice gilipolleces" (It's a good afternoon if nobody says bullshit) is a sentence by the Spanish rapper Juaninacka. For Badia, the very idea of culture comes from this constant, self-referential sampling.

For this exhibition, the artist also took inspiration from the cabinets of curiosities, Renaissance spaces and paintings where unique, exotic, and often unconnected objects were displayed. One example is the "The Five Senses" series that was born from the collaboration between painters Brueghel and Rubens. Made in the early 17th century, they represented the five senses through scenes crowded with objects, animals, and people. Picking up on this idea, Badia employs a visual density in his compositions, where each element contributes to a narrative complexity.

However, while Flemish painters celebrated the power of the senses through an abundance of detail and technical virtuosity, Badia introduces a contemporary layer of redefinition. In his paintings, objects and symbols are juxtaposed with fragments of pop culture. This is where the notion of multiverse emerges: the images do not only correspond to a single chronology or cultural dimension but converge from different artistic "realities."

As a final reflection, or rather as a starting point, the artist incorporates the notion of ruin, both physical and symbolic, throughout his creative process. His painting reflects a fascination with the ephemeral and destruction, while also considering whether culture itself could also fall into the category of ruin.

In addition to the works created specifically for this exhibition, we can see the video "Breve galimatías", made by the artist in 2010 in the form of rotoscoping, and which expands the sampling process to the audiovisual field. From a series of four television fragments, Badia subtracts the images and transfers them to an animation to which he adds music and sounds. The exhibition room also incorporates everyday objects, as well as other older works so that the visitor can fully enter this meta universe and discover what is hidden or replicated in each work.

ABOUT L21 Gallery

L21 Gallery, a contemporary art gallery founded by Óscar Florit in Palma, Spain, in 2012, has continually evolved over the years. Initially, the gallery focused on representing emerging artists and experimenting with new exhibition formats. An example of this is the project *The Apartment*, which received an award at ARCO 2015.

Today, L21 Gallery is an international and hybrid project. Its main venue, L21 Home, features a diverse program with a strong presence of international artists. Distancing itself from the conventional white cube aesthetic, the space reveals various layers, textures, and remnants from the historic building's multiple uses over the decades.

The gallery also operates in L21 Barcelona, which offers two exhibition rooms in L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, further expanding its reach and influence in the contemporary art scene. This dual-location approach allows L21 Gallery to maintain a dynamic and versatile exhibition schedule, continually showcasing innovative and thought-provoking works from both emerging and established artists.

CONTACT

Florence Rodenstein
florence@l21gallery.com