

Chino Moya

Meta-Mythical Optimisation

24th January – 1st March 2025

PV Thursday 23rd January 6pm

Chino Moya's output spans a wide range of forms from feature films to gallery-based video installation, sculpture and photography. *Meta-Mythical Optimisation* is an exhibition composed of twelve video works depicting isolated figures dressed in utilitarian fabrics, who are slowly performing subtle, considered movements. Each figure is situated in a static landscape filled with geometric architecture, arches, domes, a starved classicism most associated with past totalitarian regimes or utopian futures. The structure of the images alludes to the language of renaissance painting, relocated to a post-work future, depicting a priest-class of technocrats. The precise gestures of these robed figures imply a mediative state, further underscored by a oneiric drone that rises and falls across the gallery's rooms.

The slow crescendo of sound is punctuated by a narrator from an altogether more unsettling film by Moya, which emerges from the rear of the gallery. A familiar and trustworthy voice narrates a history, relating and dissecting future 'events' and the cascade of their ramifications. In this film the camera is newly mobile, panning across fetid landscapes and polluted seas. This world is populated by cadaverous avatars walled up in their virtual domestic spaces, opulent and ornamented in the Rococo style. In a stark contrast with the other works, the narrative and movement allows the viewer to unpick the history of this world, supplanting our initial reading of a pure techno-pragmatic future, with its implications of post-work, post-hunger, post-suffering. Here office work has somehow become a nostalgic leisure sport activity. Moya's vision is contradictory and ambiguous, upsetting the utopia-dystopia binary to which we are accustomed, perhaps alluding to Redfern Jon Barret's idea of an ambitopia, where complex, contrasting visions of possible future are allowed to flourish.

Chino Moya (b. 1976 Madrid) lives and works in London. He has video work currently on show at Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) in an exhibition titled after his work *Digital Witness*. Recent shows include *Decoding the Black Box* at the Museum Stadt Sindelfingen, Germany, the arts and technology fair *Voltaje* in Bogotá, Colombia and *After Human* at Steinhäuser Gallery, Slovakia.

In 2021 Moya released his debut feature film "Underdogs," funded by the British Film Institute and Ridley Scott's Black Dog Films. Premiering in cinemas in the US and the UK, it was selected as Film of the Week by The Guardian and garnered attention in The New York Times and the BBC, among other publications. His previous short films have received awards and have been featured in festivals worldwide.

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