

Antonio Mesones***The hand that unknowingly draws***From 28th January to 21st March 2023Opening 28th January from 11:00 to 14.00*The hand that unknowingly draws*

“At its setting the sun had a diminished diameter and an expiring brown, rayless glow, as if millions of centuries elapsing since the morning had brought it near its end. A dense bank of cloud became visible to the north; it had a sinister dark olive tint, and lay low and motionless upon the sea, resembling a solid obstacle in the path of the ship...” (Joseph Conrad)

Abstraction is intrinsic to representation. When representing things, what we do is to build other that signal to them. These forms of language summarize what they represent and in turn overflow it creating other type of meanings. That is the movement of the act of representing. Antonio Mesones' paintings signal to us something that we don't know very well what it is. We physically notice it as a totaling vehicle through a single lighting or colouring of what is being signalled. We sense that something is happening by the feelings that we get. Lines that modulate light and expand beyond the picture.

The deconstruction of shape that appears in his latest work shows the procedural character which defines this exhibition. From the outline, template registered, of the shapes of the preceding paintings, the discontinuity of that line that shapes them is considered / contemplated, generating an ambiguity between the figure and the background. These refer to a group of drawings that the artist made some years ago automatically while speaking on the phone. These “telephone drawings”, as he called them, would have been made by hearsay, without looking, with a free hand that connects to the images in his subconscious. Oddly enough, these images had a remarkable resemblance, or so he saw them, with the objects of his everyday life, like the shells picked from the beach or the ashtray on his desk. Unknowingly, the hand draws what's familiar, domestic. Similarity is linked by closeness of things.

Each painting is contemplated as a time space, to move around. Images loaded with matter. Relief generated after layers and layers of paint that hide and also reveal other territories. An organic and sensual painting, carried out slowly. A slowness of stroke that gradually adjusts colour until it is sunk at the bottom of the picture. A bottom that is building the shape, a background that is coming forward creating a dense atmosphere. Mesones' obsession with capturing what we feel and turning it through colour into pure image. Not in an illusionistic way (there is no likeness here) but emulating nature and listening to what she whispers. Where is reality and where the projected image?

Accumulations, sediments of pictorial materials that recall the passing of time and the memory of inhabited places. Loaded-with-time images that delay the moment to conclude every painting, where the successive layers slowly correct the shapes and distances which structure the composition. Luminescence of landscapes coming from the painter's guts. Intestinal clouds that lower the saturation of primary colours blurring them. What is lost and what is to come. Painting with a hard edge exposed to the influence of time and day to day possibilities.

Something's floating ...

(Text: José Aja. Madrid, January 2023)

Antonio Mesones (Torrelavega, Cantabria, 1965) studied Fine Arts at the University of the Basque Country, Bilbao, Spain. He lives and works in Berlin, Germany, since 1994. His work can be found, among others, in collections such as Marcelino Botín Foundation, Coca-cola Foundation, Würth Museum, La Rioja, CAM Collection, Valencia and CAC Collection , Málaga.