

Press Release

Germán Tagle

Portable Territory

Within Apertura Madrid Gallery Weekend – From 12th to 15th September

From 12th September to 8th November 2024

Opening: 12th September from 13.30 to 22.

In this new season, as part of **Apertura Gallery Weekend 2024**, we present the second exhibition in the gallery by **Germán Tagle** (Santiago de Chile, 1976) in which “landscape, painting and culture” are, in his opinion, the three essential pillars where his latest works rest.

The ubiquity of climate change and environmental crisis push the artist to an exercise that intends to go further ahead its alarming description. It is no longer about denouncing, through any means, the current state of the affairs. What the painter proposes is travelling beyond the disaster to a world in which nature, despite human beings, has prevailed. In his oils, we can see landscapes from another world; imaginary, resilient and of a completely not human nature. A challenge that means rethinking the typical landscape genre, whose practice, from its beginning in the XVII century, implied understanding and ordering nature, according to criteria that, one way or another complied in general with the dictates which guided its own exploitation.

On his canvases, silhouetted against the background with the accuracy of a stencil, we recognise shapes similar to vegetables, but its outlines do not seem fully familiar. It's all about engrafting, created by the artist from the fusion of plants that fill his balcony, the trees, and specially, the vegetation that lives in the millennial forest which has been the main focus of this investigation: **Siete Tazas National Park** in the region of Maule, Chile, where Tangle spends periods of time.

Due to their features, trees and house plants, in spite of the fact that they are part of the same family, the flora, wouldn't be able to survive within the same territory. That is why Germán creates this fictional world, a new world that might allow cohabitation. This idea also moves, as a metaphor, to the possibility of living together among human beings, to this end the world should apparently be changed.

What the artist does, with his painting and his discourse, is to allow access to imagination and install it as a horizon of pictorial and discursive possibilities. In these paintings that send to the landscape genre, Tagle develops the idea that, despite having roots (that no doubt can be beautiful and romantic), those roots can precisely tie you to a place or belief, without allowing change, when advancing in the search of the unknown, of the “other”, of going beyond. He calls this process **Portable Territory**. a way to deal with alienation, a place that can be committed to memory, in his imagination or in a suitcase wherever the artist goes.

Germán Tagle studied Visual Arts and Architecture at Finis Terrae University in Chile and has been developing his career in his native country, Argentina, Brazil, Spain and the USA, where he lived for a number of years. Germán Tagle has made individual exhibitions in Aninat Art Gallery, Matucana 100 Culture Centre and Patricia Ready Gallery in Santiago de Chile; Elga Wimmer PCC and Union Gallery in New York and has taken part in Biennials in Ciritiba in Brazil, Asunción in Paraguay and El Museo del Barrio in New York. His work can be found in collections such as Adrastrus, H.E.F., Engel and Museo del Barrio among others.