

Parallels in Time

Volcano | Pompeii | La Palma

Miguel Aguirre & Eduardo Nave

November 16th to January 21st, 2025

Opening: November 16th, 11 am to 2:30 pm

The skin of history is made of ashes; perhaps that's why images are our attempt to capture what goes beyond anecdote. Where reality connects with geological testimony, an opportunity arises to reinterpret the value of our past. In **Parallels in Time**, photography and painting engage in dialogue to reveal a valuable borrowing from the visible world, one that we access as if claiming an instant amidst time. Thus, pigment, silver halide, and pixel participate in a common event: the (re)creation of our memory.

This exhibition explores the powerful narrative of two volcanic eruptions: that of Vesuvius in 79 AD, which buried Pompeii, and that of Tajogaite in 2021, which devastated part of the island of La Palma. Eduardo Nave (Valencia, 1976) captures in his photographs the landscapes transformed by lava, showing the immutable mark of these catastrophes. Miguel Aguirre (Lima, 1973), inspired by the visual impact of these events and the cinematic echo of destruction, transforms the ruins and landscapes captured by the photographer into paintings. Through his work, Aguirre creates a visual dialogue between the ancient and the contemporary, where desolation and human fragility find their counterpoint in the relentless force of nature.

Parallels in Time explores memory as an active construction, in which we not only remember but travel within the event, as if tracing maps of places that no longer exist as they were, but as we have remembered them. Thus, this dialogue seeks not only to capture the appearance of the real but to suggest an expanded memory, extending a bridge capable of uniting two thousand years of history.

In his work, Miguel Aguirre integrates film references that engage with the historical, offering us a space for reflection and silence. What we see, therefore, is the reflection of a collective construction, shaped by narratives and symbols that reinterpret and update it. Aguirre transforms representation into a constantly changing terrain, where the testimony of tragedy intertwines with cultural imagination, overlaying times and meanings.

Eduardo Nave, in his exploration of Pompeii and the island of La Palma, provides a contemplative perspective on the persistence of ruins and spaces marked by devastation. In Pompeii, the traces of catastrophe appear as a record frozen in time, a distant echo that invites us to witness a museum-like landscape. In contrast, by photographing the recent volcanic eruption, he offers a more immediate perspective on destruction, where the landscape fragments into four times. Here, Nave documents a wounded territory that reminds us of the vulnerability of our certainties.

Each diptych and polyptych fosters a dialectic between remote past and recent event, narrated history and media occurrence, the power of nature and human fragility, death and survival: essential themes for both artists. This dialogue leads us to reflect on temporality and the dynamic nature of memory, where painting and photography merge into a narrative that challenges the boundaries between two syncopated times. Thus, the past forges its own absence through two perspectives that observe and resignify it.

Text: Isabel Hernández