

Press Release

Understanding is not achieved through reason | Concha García & Ignacio Llamas

Opening: January 24, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

From January 24 to March 21, 2026

Continuing our series of exhibition projects that link two of our artists—possessing undeniable formal and conceptual connections—which began with the exhibition *Paralelos en el tiempo* by Miguel Aguirre and Eduardo Nave, we present a new joint proposal by **Concha García** and **Ignacio Llamas** titled **Understanding is not achieved through reason**. In this exhibition, both artists suggest the necessity of a reaction time, a microsecond of waiting. Both insist: understanding is not achieved through reason. Reason, on its own, is not the procedure. Goya already reflected on this matter when he stated that "the sleep of reason produces monsters."

This seemingly paradoxical title reveals itself as a pertinent starting point in an era where something as essential as our way of perceiving reality and the manners in which we relate to the world and images are being questioned. In 1983, Howard Gardner, psychologist, researcher, and professor at Harvard University, formulated the Theory of Multiple Intelligences, according to which there are at least eight types of intelligence in human beings: linguistic-verbal, musical, logical-mathematical, spatial, bodily-kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, and naturalistic. All of these expand the traditional concept of comprehension and shift thought beyond a single, dominant reason. Activating this diverse potential seems to have become an indisputable objective for achieving goals in an increasingly demanding society. In this context, the exhibition presents itself as a space that goes one step further, proposing the sensory, the corporal, and, above all, the intuitive as a path to knowledge.

Along these same lines, the Swiss philosopher and psychologist Jean Piaget is credited with the statement: "Intelligence is what you use when you don't know what to do." This project, which aims to incorporate a different perspective, takes its title from a verse in a poem by Esther Cánovas:

Understanding is not achieved through reason,
for reason is full.
Understanding is the measure of the void
with which we harbor.
The emptier we are,
the more immense.

The works created by Concha García and Ignacio Llamas have been built through a fluid dialogue between a series of complementary concepts. Binomials such as reason–intuition, life–death, reality–appearance, heaviness–lightness, fullness–emptiness, unity–diversity, and limit–infinity. Far from being rigid or exclusive oppositions, these pairs function as zones of transit. In this shared territory, intuition does not cancel out reason, nor does presence deny emptiness; on the contrary, each term finds its intensity through contact with the other. The work, situated on this threshold, proposes a state of flickering equilibrium that invites experience over explanation.

This collaboration, which we proposed to both artists, has developed from a place of deeply respectful freedom. In this shared process, the works themselves have been the primary and delicate bond of union. The languages of both artists have expanded to embrace the other, their proposals, and their way of seeing and living art. It is in this proximity where cooperation acquires its true power, becoming a profound union that allows common ground to emerge without renouncing the uniqueness of each gesture or the identity of each artistic practice.

Concha García (Santander, 1960) holds a PhD in Fine Arts from the Complutense University of Madrid. Her work has been exhibited in institutions such as the Museum of Decorative Arts, Whitechapel Gallery in London (exhibition *In the Eye of Bambi*, La Caixa Collection), Museo Patio Herreriano (exhibition *La piel del Mar*), Museum of Fine Arts of Santander (exhibition *El gusano de seda*), and the Centro Tomás y Valiente (exhibition *Creadoras del Siglo XX*), among others.

Ignacio Llamas (Toledo, 1970) holds a degree in Fine Arts from the UCM. He has held solo and group exhibitions in Spain, Portugal, Italy, Germany, the USA, and Argentina, frequently participating in both national and international contemporary art fairs. His work has been seen at the Centro de Arte Alcobendas, Museo Patio Herreriano, Museo A2, Fundación Antonio Pérez, MACA (Museum of Contemporary Art of Alicante), MEIAC (Extremaduran and Ibero-American Museum of Contemporary Art), and the Union FENOSA Museum of Contemporary Art, among others.