



PRESS RELEASE

SATURATION | New Spanish Painting

Curated by **SCAN (Spanish Contemporary Art Network)**

In an image saturated age, digital media, internet, television, film, and video entertain, inform and surround us every waking hour. Hand-held technologies have made us not only incessant consumers but also constant maker/editors of images. The artistic value of the painted image has been in crisis for a century and, particularly in recent decades, painting has been relegated to the periphery of contemporary art discourse. Amidst numerous and expanding media and visual technology, what is the role of painting now?

SATURATION looks at the persistence of painting in contemporary artistic production. Coinciding with the 100th anniversary of Kazimir Malevich's *Black Square*, SATURATION explores the range, methods and means of painting production today through the work of seventeen Spanish painters in three simultaneous London exhibitions.

[1] **FIGURE/GROUND** at The Fitzrovia Gallery, Whitfield Street, 23th June to 31st July 2015. Opening: 25th June 2015

ROSANA ANTOLÍ, ANA BARRIGA, GLORIA CEBALLOS, VICTORIA IRANZO, KEKE VILABELDA, RUTH MORÁN, PEPA PRIETO, SANTIAGO YDAÑEZ

Figure/Ground explores readings of narrative and sub-narrative in works on canvas, paper, acrylic, and concrete. Drawing on techniques from film and photography, painters re-assemble appropriated imagery to overlay and alter associations, spatial and narrative hierarchies and meaning. Cut-and-paste, collage, scale distortions, photographic transfers and animation and video become tools for destabilising painting conventions and introducing fluidity and ambiguity to the medium.

What is foreground, what background? Is the viewer witness to the depicted event or a party to the act of witnessing itself? This reading of figuration elides such distinctions, offering both and neither. These borrowed images are neither stable nor steal-able. The fact of paint on a ground stands for itself alone.

[2] **ADD SUBTRACT DIVIDE** at COPPERFIELD, Copperfield Street, 16th July to 12th of September. Opening: 15th of July 2015

GUILLERMO MORA, MARÍA ACUYO, LOIS PATIÑO, RUBÉN GUERRERO, SONIA NAVARRO, ALAIN URRUTIA

Add Subtract Divide Add Subtract Divide sees artists revisit the abstract painting tradition with new media, processes and experimentation. Some works take physical issue with the discipline by disassembling or reconfiguring canvas and stretcher, preferencing material qualities over any notion of the picture plane. The historical reading of flatness in the language of Modernist geometric painting is investigated using *trompe l'oeil* and collage, flickering between picture plane and referent. Other works experiment with scale and non-traditional materials to re-position otherwise familiar forms, investing them with political or gender narratives; Geometric abstraction is reworked in stitched lines and layers of applied felt, transforming the medium and linking it to other traditions of making.

[3] **PERFORMED PAINTING** at The RYDER Projects, Herald Street, 17th July to 12th of September. Opening: 17th of July 2015

ALAN SASTRE, VICKY USLÉ, FERRÁN GISBERT, ROSANA ANTOLÍ

Performed Painting explores the act and re-enactment of painting whether directly on the gallery wall or abstracted into video or film. Physical and visual limits are probed and tools or technologies deployed to extend the artist's reach, expand the extent of a brushstroke or amplify the colour spectrum visible to the human eye. The image can resemble a movement-map for the eye to wander over and revisit, trailing the artist's hand. This is action painting – or an idea of action painting – we can no longer be certain.

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Image: 'Mitad tú, mitad yo (Pedro) Guillermo Mora-2015