

*In the Service of Vision***MARCO GODOY**

Max Estrella is delighted to present Marco Godoy's (Madrid 1986) most recent work. These new pieces come as a result of his research on public protest started in 2010. *In the Service of Vision* proposes a reflection about individual responsibility in rejecting violence in all its forms. Godoy appropriates authority's symbols to build a non-violent-opposition discourse. Semiotics of power are subverted to create new meanings. Here the sense of vision plays a very important part as the intellectual attribute that shields us from becoming repressors ourselves.

Eyewitness of the demonstrations and riots originated in Santiago de Chile in October 2019, Godoy evinces a hopeless stagnant society, which is incapable of escaping the spiral of violent acts inflicted on it. As a response to this context, he designs a symbolic action where tangible is contained by the immaterial. Light and reflection served to protect protesters from physical aggression, also forcing those who amputated the vision of 407 people and repressed thousands more, to face their own shame.

50+ Swat shields with a mirror sheet on it were distributed by the artist to demonstrators. They were able then to defend themselves through reflecting light and blinding police. Thanks to that, engage any violent action was avoided. And at the same time, repressive forces were confronted with their own aggressive reflection. Vision is the sense that connects us most to the world. It is an abstract projection of the future to come. With this action, its integrity is protected. It is not a victim any more, and becomes a source of authority to lead every individual's destiny.

Appropriation is also applied by the artist with the typography used in monuments. *Hasta que Valga la Pena Vivir (Until Living Is Worth It)* is one of the most popular statements on protester's placards. Using an alphabet made from the characters of the monument located at Plaza de Armas in Santiago, Godoy reenacts it in one of the pieces exhibited. Old monuments are dismembered and reconfigured to start a conversation about the future imagined by the people. These letters sculpted on stone create a cavity, a void that reminds us of Jacques Lacans' *empty speech*. Just as the signifier fails to represent us, this alphabet of rocky signs is not capable to achieve this goal. It is the artist who reconfigures it into a new language.

Marco Godoy lives and works in Madrid. He studied at the Royal College of Art, and Video and New Media Department of SAIC Chicago and UCM Madrid. In addition to his expertise in video and photography, his work encompasses sculpture, drawing, and collaborative projects. His work has been exhibited in Matadero, Casa Encendida, Centro Centro and Centro Conde Duque, Madrid; Centre Georges Pompidou and Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Whitechapel Gallery and Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), London; Stedelijk Museum, Hertogenbosch; Edinburgh Art Festival; Dallas Museum of Contemporary Art; Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art; Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin; among others.

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Opening: Saturday, April 22nd 2021, 11 am – 3 pm

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