

PRESS RELEASE

JORGE CONDE REMEMBER THAT PLACE?

FABIENNE LEVY
Avenue Louis-Ruchonnet 6, 1003
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Fabienne Levy is pleased to announce the opening of the first solo show in Switzerland of photographer and visual artist Jorge Conde, born in Barcelona, Spain in 1968, where he lives and works.

The artist's interest in archaeology is rooted in the summer of 1995. At that time, he was hired by the team of archaeologists in charge of the restoration of the ancient Roman arena and forum in Tarragona, Spain. His mission there was to illustrate various architectural elements trying to imagine and depict them in their original shape and function. This was a truly valuable experience and a long-term source of inspiration for his artistic practice.

As a result, Jorge focus were transformed spaces, non-places where you have the potential to act. The state of in-betweenness during which a process of mutation happens brings a new meaning. An interesting ground for preserving collective memory, and creating emotional experiences and commitment.

The new series of works presented is based on an investigation focusing on a selection of 8 Swiss institutions born following the regeneration and renovation of obsolete, disused industrial sites. Often abandoned, the artist's quest looks at how the buildings impact society. What relation do they have with the landscape and what is their role in preserving the memory of the territory? These institutions whose mission is to exhibit the visual arts have been chosen to make those inhabited places new cultural hubs.

To do so, these "cultural objects" have been considered as zones marking a spatial and historical transition from one milieu to another, from the past to the present and onto the future, as milestones to be explored and experienced.

Archival research and on-site fieldwork have been crucial for exploring the past and present of these institutions. The principles and values of Archaeology were used as the methodological tool in order to carry out the fieldwork. Found imagery and online resources have been used to re-interpret the cityscape and create imaginary sites.

Jorge Conde (b. 1968, Barcelona, Spain), holds a Bachelor degree in Fine Arts from the University of Barcelona (UB), he studied Visual Arts & Music at the University of California, San Diego (USA) and the Chelsea College of Arts and Design in London (UK), where he worked as resident artist with a grant awarded by the UB. He was later resident artist at the Siqueiros Museum in Cuernavaca (Mexico) and, more recently, at the Royal Academy of Spain in Rome with the prestigious MAEC-AECID Visual Arts Prize for the 2015-16 period.

His work deals with the excesses of contemporary hyperconsumption society and the relations of power that help support it, its intrinsic voraciousness and capability to produce fake narratives (fictions), utopias, ethically-dubious policies, excluding geopolitical spaces, segmented identities and extremely complex social roles. Over the years his practice has taken a conceptual turn, placing itself in positions of greater ethical, social and ecological commitment. It shows a deep concern for humanitarian crises, collective memory, the social, landscape and environmental impact derived from certain policies and attitudes quite common in late capitalism, and the stories told to justify them. With diverse techniques and languages - photography, video, installation, painting, sound art, and archival processes-, and through the use of hybrid, immersive strategies, his projects function as ordered, communicating universes, always driven by an ethical-aesthetic reflection, and a critically- constructive essayistic zeal.

His artistic practice has been recognized and supported by the Spanish Ministry of Culture, the Catalan Regional Government, the Spanish Agency for International Development and Cooperation (AECID), the National Council for Arts and Culture (CoNCA), the Bertelsmann- Planeta Foundation, the Bancaja-Bankia Foundation, the National Institute of Fine Arts (INBA) and Morelos State Autonomous University (UAEM) in Mexico, and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Rome (MACRO), among others.

He has held numerous solo and group exhibitions in different countries (Germany, USA, France, Great Britain, Spain, Italy, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Portugal, etc.), in public and private institutions such as the Siqueiros Museum in Cuernavaca (Mexico); Cervantes Institute in Berlin (Germany); IVAM and Centre del Carme for Contemporary Culture in Valencia (Spain); Tabacalera Madrid, San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Bertelsmann Foundation, and CEART-Tomás y Valiente Center for the Arts in Madrid (Spain); Arts Santa Mònica and the Círculo de Lectores Cultural Center in Barcelona (Spain); Museum of Contemporary Art in Rome (MACRO); Royal Academy of Spain in Rome (Italy); Tinglado 2, Rovira i Virgili University (URV) and the Museum of Modern Art (MAMT) in Tarragona (Spain); Casal Solleric in Palma (Spain); Quinta das Cruzadas Art Center in Sintra (Portugal); Mandeville Center for the Arts in San Diego (USA), etc.

He has also participated in relevant festivals, fairs and events of the international contemporary art scene (PHotoEspaña, ARCO Madrid, Art Miami, Art Philadelphia, AAF London, the Remo Brindisi festival in Ferrara (Italy), SCAN Tarragona (Spain), the XVI Biennial of Contemporary Photography in Córdoba (Spain), ArtExpo California in San Francisco (USA), among others.

Work on first page: Jorge Conde, Imaginary Archaeological Site, circa 2019, 2020, Giclée Print, 120 x 180 cm

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#JorgeConde #Rememberthatplace #FabienneLevy

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