



ISABEL CROXATTO

GALERIA

PRESS RELEASE

ISABEL CROXATTO GALERÍA PRESENTS *EL TURISTA* BY COCO GONZÁLEZ LOHSE, THE GALLERY'S FIRST VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Isabel Croxatto Galería presents *El Turista [The Tourist]*, solo show by Jorge “Coco” González Lohse (Santiago, 1965), introducing its new series of digital exhibitions hosted at its online gallery on **Artsy**. This is the artist’s first virtual exhibition, and his first with Isabel Croxatto Galería. *El Turista* gathers 33 small size paintings created by González Lohse during the last six months, features curatorial text by researcher and curator **Carolina Castro Jorquera**, and will be **on view online from 29 April**.

El Turista by Coco González Lohse is far from tourism as we know it, far from frivolity, rest or pleasure; instead, it narrates a mystical and romantic journey, the exodus of a shipwrecked humanity in search of a lost paradise. From his craft in painting, and through a precious aesthetic, working with layers of washes and glazes –and his always distinctive playful language–, Coco González presents human individuals and groups wandering around the earth in a metaphor about travel.

Naked and wearing pointed black masks, the artist exposes his tiny characters entering unknown territories, those that only imagination or sentiment can explore. The lost paradise that its adventurers and shamans seek exists, but nobody knows where it is; it may be at home, in another country, or on a physical or mental trip. Fire is an important part of this search, since home is found where fire –both creator and destroyer– lives.

The exhibition comprises a series of 33 small format oil on canvas board paintings –‘transportable’, in the artist’s words–, created during a period of time starting a few weeks before Chile’s 18 October social outburst, up to the social isolation due to the current pandemic.

The curatorial text of the exhibition was written by Chilean researcher and curator Carolina Castro Jorquera, PhD in Art History from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.



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Coco González Lohse's *El Turista* is the first in a new series of online exhibitions developed by Isabel Croxatto Galería for 2020, presented through its virtual gallery on Artsy.

About this new format, Isabel Croxatto, gallery founder and director, says: 'Art itself is future, and it's constantly changing. Everything affects it, and everything is transformed into material that can be affected by new codes: the codes of the artist and those of all the rich fabric that surrounds them, including the viewer, who plays a vital role in this ecosystem'. 'In the current scenario, we are faced to adapt and reinvent ways of being together without being physically close. That is why we want to invite everyone to live with art more than ever, visiting this virtual exhibition and making it their own from their homes', Ms Croxatto adds.

The exhibition will be on view from Wednesday 29 April 2020 at artsy.net/galeria-isabel-croxatto, with free access and no registration needed.

EL TURISTA | COCO GONZÁLEZ LOHSE

Curatorial Text | Carolina Castro Jorquera

Online Exclusive

29 April – 20 May | 2020

ISABEL CROXATTO GALERÍA

Napoleón 3242, Las Condes

Santiago 7550215 Chile

+56 9 9434 0011

www.isabelcroxattogaleria.cl

www.isabelcroxattogaleria.cl
contacto@isabelcroxattogaleria.cl
+ 56 9 94340011
Santiago, CHILE

For further press information, contact Nicolás De Sarmiento | comunicaciones@isabelcroxattogaleria.cl

Jorge “Coco” González Lohse is a visual artist, curator, editor and cultural manager, Bachelor of Arts with a mention in Painting by the Universidad de Chile.

His work has been exhibited since 1988 in 14 individual or bi-personal exhibitions and more than 170 group exhibitions, including envoys, biennials and competitions in Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, the United States and Spain.

Mainly dedicated to painting and sculpture, his work has been influenced by Neopop, German Expressionism, Metaphysical Painting, Conceptual Art, Surrealism, and Popular Graphics. His work deals with the issues of sublimation of the skin, revolving around the notions of “collective body” and “belonging”, inquiring into the relationships between everyday life and vernacular images. In it, the absurd, the contradiction and the dreamlike are amalgamated in the search for a visual language connected to social criticism and humour.

The artist’s work can be identified with the *Revolta Vitalista*, Chilean movement comprised of a group of artists in the return to democracy in Chile in the early 1990s, who were linked in specific instances, but later left this scene to set their own narrative linked to heterogeneous aesthetic expressions that draw their inspiration from punk and rock, comics, fashion, new wave and neo-hippie.

In parallel to his artistic work, González Lohse has taught at various art faculties in Chile, in addition to his labour as a curator and editor of the artistic research books *Cambio de Aceite* (2003), *Revisión Técnica* (2010), *Sub30* (2014) and *Los Dominios Perdidos* (2019), among others.

In 2014 he was co-founder of the SXC Cooperativa de Artistas, an artists’ association, and between 2015 and 2018 he was coordinator of the contemporary art platform Espacio O in Santiago.

His work is in public and private collections in Chile, Argentina, Peru, Mexico, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Spain, France and Germany.

Coco González Lohse lives and works in Santiago.



CAROLINA CASTRO JORQUERA | BIO

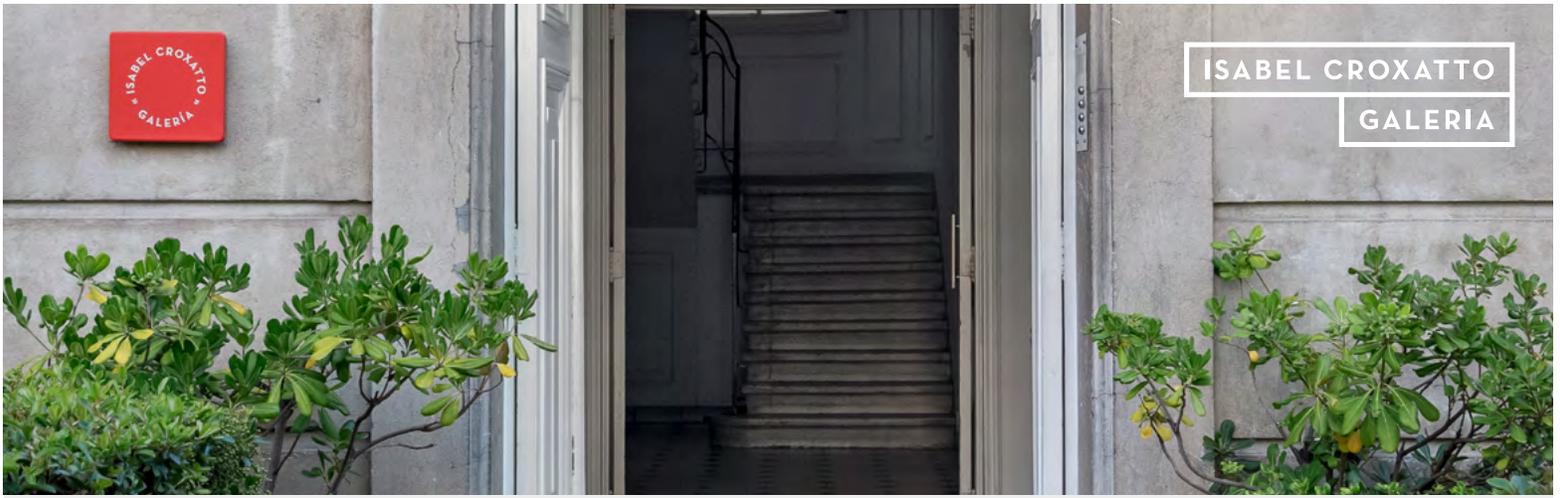
San Felipe, Chile, 1982

Carolina Castro Jorquera is a curator and researcher, PhD in Art History from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. She has completed the Master in Contemporary Art and Visual Culture of the Reina Sofía National Museum Art Centre in Spain (2010), and participated in the 4th International Curators Course of the Gwangju Biennial (GBICC), South Korea (2012). Ms Castro is currently a professor of the Magister in Photographic Creation at Universidad Finis Terrae in Santiago. Her writings have been published in magazines such as Artishock, Latinxspaces, The Miami Rail, Terremoto, and the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection online platform.

Among her most recent projects as an independent curator are the Planta section at the Ch.ACO contemporary art fair (Santiago, 2016-2018); *Zombi Mall* by Ignacio Gatica at Die Ecke gallery (Santiago, 2017); *Distaff* by Juana Gómez at Michael Hoppen Gallery (London, 2017); curatorial selection for Yoko Ono’s *Water Event* in the *Yoko Ono: Dream Come True* exhibition, including works by Cecilia Vicuña and Enrique Ramírez, at CorpArtes (Santiago, 2017); the group exhibition *Grupo <11>* at the Instituto Cervantes in New York (2017); and *Contact* by Francois Bucher at Galería Patricia Ready (Santiago, 2019).

Carolina Castro Jorquera lives and works in Santiago.





Isabel Croxatto Galería is an international contemporary art platform based in Santiago, Chile, founded in 2012 as a space focused in emerging and established artists with national and international recognition, promoting and opening new markets for contemporary art from the south of the world.

Its labour is centred in supporting and boosting the career of artists through the international circulation of their artworks, solo and group exhibitions, participation in fairs, biennials, and collaborations with curators and private and public platforms locally and abroad, creating new audiences and encouraging new ways of collecting.

Together with its annual programme of solo exhibitions, Isabel Croxatto Galería develops its new series of group shows, *El Mundo Al Instante [The World in an Instant]*, which, upon open calls and collaborative curatorship, builds a visual dialogue on Chilean and world current affairs. In addition, the gallery constantly takes part of renowned international contemporary art fairs, such as Art Central (Hong Kong) and Contemporary Istanbul (Turkey).

The work of the artists gathered in Isabel Croxatto Galería's curatorial project revolves around contemporary issues of 'the human', from intimate and social bodies, from memory and archive, from the analogue and the digital. Inspired by figurative art, each one of them, through their own different media, aesthetically proposes unique and disturbing questions and solutions that invite us to reflect on the times we live in.

Awarded with the Best Exhibition Prize | Gallery Weekend Santiago 2018

Isabel Croxatto Galería is a member of AGAC, Association of Contemporary Art Galleries of Chile, and is sponsored by SISMICA, sector brand for Chilean visual arts, and ProChile, agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Chile for the promotion of Chilean industries abroad.

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