



GALLERIA CONTINUA

SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING LES MOULINS HABANA

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ALEJANDRO CAMPINS

Declaración Pública

Opening: Saturday May 13th 2017, Arco dei Becci 1, 6–9pm

Until 28.08.2017, Monday–Sunday, 10am–1pm, 2–7pm

Galleria Continua San Gimignano is pleased to present *Declaración Pública*, the first solo show by Alejandro Campins in Italy.

The Cuban artist, who graduated from the Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA) in Havana, works with painting as well as photography and drawing.

In San Gimignano, Campins is exhibiting a selection of paintings from the series "Declaración Pública", as well as a fresco. Begun in 2015, this series portrays amphitheatres built in Cuba after the Revolution. As of 1959, these facilities were constructed to spread and legitimize the so-called *discurso político oficial*. More recently, this type of activity has been reduced to certain annual occasions.

abandonment or the function of a Cuban outdoor stage appear evident, in Campins' paintings they are latent ideas. His scenes are romantic, and condense the past, present and future. Free of space-time references, they do not lack narrative potential. According to Campins, moreover, "they are witnesses of the way in which nature and what humans are capable of doing come together and create a strange reality, which is timeless. In a sense, they show how humans invade nature and how nature defends itself and likewise invades the human being. The attraction between humans and nature recalls the relationship between reality and fiction." Light, composition and subject in Campins' work fuel this suggestion: landscapes and architecture have at the same time an anonymous trait and a personality, which is reflected in the works' titles and details.

While in reality the state of

Inside the niche in Arco dei

Becci, the gallery space given over to the Campins show, the artist presents a fresco inspired by Giotto's art. This last stage stands in a metaphysical environment; together with nature, it creates a rarefied reality like the one in a dream. Campins often leaves incomplete forms and defies perspective. In fact, according to the artist, his landscapes should not be "a comfortable experience".

Cuban artist **Alejandro Campins** was born in Manzanillo in 1981. His works have been extensively exhibited in Havana in some of the institutions and exhibitions that have most strongly marked the national contemporary art scene, such as: *Nido sin árbol*, UNAICC, Colegio de Arquitectos de Cuba (2016); *Anclados en el Territorio*, Galleria Continua (2015); *Avalancha*, Villa Manuela Gallery (2014); *El otro lado del paraíso*, Biblioteca Nacional José Martí (2014); *Para quebrar los muros*, National Museum of Fine Arts (2013); *Maretti Prize*, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Wilfredo Lam (2012);

Heavy and Happy Painters, XI Havana Biennial Collateral (2012); *BLA, BLA, BLA*, Servando Gallery (2008). Abroad, Campins has exhibited his work in institutions such as: MFAH, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas (2017); The Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York, New York (2017); MDC Museum of Art and Design, Miami, Florida (2016); Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, Ohio (2016); CAB, Brussels, Belgium (2016); Freies Museum, Berlin, Germany (2012); the 12th Cairo Biennial, Cairo, Egypt (2010); the 1st Portugal Biennial, Portugal (2010). Among his personal exhibitions, we include here: a double solo show with the Cuban artist José Yaque at Wasserman Projects, Detroit, Michigan (2017), a photography exhibition at Fototeca de Cuba, Havana, Cuba (2016), a show at the Sean Kelly Gallery, New York, New York (2016), an exhibition at Galleria Continua, Les Moulins, Boissy Le Châtel, France (2015), and one at Factoría Habana, Havana, Cuba (2012). In 2017, Campins spent two months in New York City attending Residency Unlimited, an artist residency program funded by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund through the Cuban Artists Fund (CAF).

For further information about the exhibition and for photographs:

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