

Press release

Javier Pérez

Exhibition from 15th September to 22nd October 2005

The Guy Bärtschi Gallery is pleased to present in its " Gallery " space, an exhibition of the Spanish artist Javier Pérez from September 15 to October 22, 2005, which will allow visitors to discover his latest works.

Javier Pérez was born in 1968 in Bilbao. He lives and works in Barcelona. After studying at the School of Fine Arts in Bilbao, he pursued postgraduate studies at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He is part of the movement of artists whose work is linked to the body, and more particularly to their own bodies. In 2001, he was chosen to represent Spain at the Venice Biennale. Through his sculptures, videos, performances or graphic works, his work allows us to be transported into a dreamlike or fantastic world. Close to literature, he refers among others to the literary works of Borgès, Cioran, Dante or Thomas Bernhard.

Javier Pérez's art is foreign to this desire to shift the boundaries of art and could rather be compared to the works of Rebecca Horn, Jana Sterbak or Giuseppe Penone, where the body transcribes a personal mythology that draws on the origins of impulses and existential questions. Like them, he works on appearance, the gaze of the other.

The key words of his work are disappearance, lightness, movement, instability. They translate into his interest in materials such as smoke, air or glass. The use of organic materials such as silicone, latex, horsehair, silk glass cocoons or more delicate ones such as glass, mirror or porcelain brings a feeling that is both poetic and strange.

"...The obstinacy, even obsession with which Javier Pérez has been investing since the beginning of his work, covers his body, either by moulting it, giving it the appearance of an animal, in two recurring genres, the horse and insects, or by enclosing it in transparent chrysalides, cocoons, insisting on the transmutation from one state to another...", explains Nathalie Viot.

The mask obscures the features of a face, but also doubles it, or is covered with a half-animal half-plant hair. The artist will say "I will never stop removing these masks", the mutation takes place as much from the outside as from the inside.