

Press release

Daniel Canogar
Will Turner

Exhibition from 13th March to 15th May 2008
Opening on 13th March from 6pm

Daniel Canogar, artist from Madrid born in 1964, presents his works at the Guy Bärtschi gallery in the March 13 to May 16, 2008. Questioning the place of man in space, the artist will exhibit his pieces that are born from the encounter of tangled cameras and the images they sketch in the gallery space. A dark environment in which the electronic structure and the projection are staged allows the spectator to be immersed.

Shown in a solo show for the first time in Geneva, the artist occupies the ground floor and basement of the gallery.

In these installations, it is as much the projection as the means of projection that participate in the artistic experience. The rooms are divided into distinct spaces that confront the electrical structure, made up of wires ending in cameras, with the projected image. To this is added the very presence of the spectator, who is called upon to interfere with the work by revealing his shadow on the surface that comes to stand in front of that of the projection.

The theme focuses on the image of the human being, as opposed to the complicated world of mechanics that gives birth to it. The devices are reminiscent of endoscopic instruments or complicated networks of blood veins and reveal, in some rooms, parts of the body, even the most hidden and smallest parts of the body. The body often appears floating, in free fall, with its image projected on the wall, floor or ceiling. Striking shortcuts are reminiscent of baroque frescoes, in which the eye is caught in infinite perspectives. Other works, such as the photographs Enredos, suspend bodies in worlds of cables and wires, which entangle the vision and leave no escape. The characters appear to be asleep, as if in an electronic dream. These creatures of mechanics, modern octopuses, suffocate and oppress, and immerse the viewer in their complicated labyrinth. The Spider installations evoke this same universe, where bodies are entangled in these cobwebs of the future.

A catalogue published by the gallery on the occasion of this exhibition and including an interview of the artist by Marta Gili, director of the Jeu de Paume in Paris, gives a better understanding of Daniel Canogar's work.

In the basement Project Room, another young artist, Will Turner, born in England in 1977, will present Fragile States. Working on banal images from books from the 1970s and 1980s, he exploits their deliciously retro character in collages that divert their original idea. Cut, glued and assembled, these works become veritable little sculptures with a pop look. In these pieces, the published image, which is widely distributed, is opposed to the meticulous manual work that turns it into a unique work of art. The delicacy and finesse of the cut is enhanced by the direct presentation of the works, which are unframed. The image then acquires the status of an icon while retaining, in the background, its original narrative.