

Press Release

Javier Pérez

Dessins

Exhibition from Tuesday 31st of January to the 16th of March 2012

Preview: Tuesday 31st of January in the company of the artist

The Guy Bärtschi Gallery takes great pleasure in hosting a new exhibition of hitherto un-exhibited works of Javier Pérez entitled: *Dessins*. Almost a year to the day of the exhibition of his *Nocturne Op.9*, the Spanish artist, born in Bilbao in 1968, has chosen to essentially concentrate on these drawings and has created an exhibition of works filled with a striking intensity.

The exhibition pivots around a series of three auto representations of the artist: *Transfiguracion I-III* which consists of a group of three large format works (280 x 140 cm) created by using water colours and pastels on paper, *Trans I-XX*: twenty drawings using the same technique in small format (43,5 x 31,5 cm) and *Estudio para transfiguracion I-IV* which consists of four works using water colour, pastels and Indian ink on parchment paper (31 x 44 cm).

Transfiguracion I-III deals with the change revealed in nature. The series is composed of three large works, imposing both by their huge format and the mastery with which they are executed. The indissociable rise from the fall, the laws of gravity to grace and mutability: these are just some of the states the artist succeeds in evoking. The representation of the body sublimated is echoed in a link to the original.

Estudio para Transfiguration I-IV is the preparatory work for the latter. A body of light emerges from the shadow of the parchment. As a negative in a roll of film is promised in its development, these drawings bring a dimension and a key to supplementary readings of the *Transfiguration I-III*.

Javier Pérez has chosen to call the series *Trans I-XX* from the etymology of the prefix which means both: «from the other side» and «through». The artist accomplishes various forms of transformations or metamorphosis: The flesh becomes a laboratory of phantasmagorique experiments where the border between the entrails and the skin is no longer defined. The placing into abyss goes hand in hand with reversal while organic networks of smoke create doubles or sometimes even multiples of the artist. This series resembles a private diary written in a refined language using forms that are as varied as they are coherent.

The only work which is not a drawing and where the body is not represented, but nevertheless inevitably reminds us of it, is a sculpture, *A 60cm del suelo*, in the form of two bronze shoes which balance gingerly on a sphere of blown glass. The shoes of the artist become a representation of his relationship with the world: a tension born from opposition between force and fragility.