

PRESS RELEASE

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CARMEN CALVO

L'HISTOIRE D'UNE DE MES FOLIES

24, RUE DU VIEUX-BILLARD

OPENING ON 12.11.2016 – 18H

Art Bärtschi & Cie is pleased to present a new exhibition of the Spanish artist **Carmen Calvo** called *L'histoire d'une de mes folies*. For this third solo exhibition at the gallery, Carmen Calvo proposes a collection of recent works: collages, photographs, drawings, sculptures, as well as two installations.

Over the years, the artist has developed a particular sensibility, exploring a multitude of media and techniques in his search for an appropriate language for forgotten stories, memories of violence buried, and to the silence imposed on generations of women in Spain. The artist draws on the imagery and the popular culture memory to create collages, painted photographs, doctored portraits and objects that constitute an imaginary that is both recognizable and original.

Charles Bukowski said, "Understand me. I am not in an ordinary world. I have my madness, I live in another dimension and I have no time for things that have no soul. ». For Carmen Calvo the important thing is to "keep feeling the emotion" and live "your madness, believe in what you do, sometimes you successful, sometimes not. You have to have soul, you have to work and experiment. "The artist has developed a technique of handling of different media, where photography and image are the main thread. She uses the photographic repertoires kept in all the families and which constitute a part of the essential or accidental in our lives. His images allow him to construct a new reality: the anonymous images from the past are converted into current themes and concerns.

An artist rooted in her time, Carmen Calvo stages stories of joys, illusions and sadness, of dreams, losses and encounters revealing a critical gaze constructed from forms and objects simple. Abandoned but still recognizable everyday objects are modified, interpreted, and rehabilitated, to find a new life by becoming works of art. The artist invents a language teeming with signs that reflect a very personal look at a moment, an instant, life. *L'histoire d'une de mes folies* is not just another exhibition project in the long career of Carmen Calvo but a synthesis of an artistic career spent constructing a critical language designed to unveil memories, memories anxieties and obsessions.

Far from being a tribute to Memory, the work of Carmen Calvo is deeply rooted in the present and in the future.

Born in Valencia (Spain) in 1950, Carmen Calvo has a long artistic career behind her. She distinguished in particular by the heterogeneous nature of its creations, by its constant search for ways of original forms of expression, through the use of various techniques and materials, through his reflection on memory as well as through his research on the construction of the image as a subjective and historical identity.

Her work was awarded in 2013 with the National Plastic Arts Prize of the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport. The artist represented Spain at the Venice Biennale in 1997 and has notably exhibited at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia in Madrid (2002), at the Institute of Modern Art of Valencia as well as in countless museums and art centres around the world.

Her works are part of important museum collections, such as those of the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia of Madrid, the Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona (Macba), the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Fonds National d'Art Contemporain (FNAC) in Paris and the Musée Marugame Hirai from Kobe, Japan. Finally, she is currently preparing an important retrospective at the prestigious Alcalá Hall in Madrid.