

## Spanish artist Santiago Giralda debuts in New York with MPA Gallery

- From the 24th to the 29th of April Galería MPA will present Madrid-born painter Santiago Giralda's first solo show in New York.
- The second part of the project, from the 1st to the 6th of May, is a group exhibition of artists represented by the gallery who live in New York City.

*"I approach the city as a paradigm of contemporary landscape. However, I am interested more in natural spaces that traverse the city. I want to investigate the place that nature occupies in such a contaminated context"*

Santiago Giralda

Santiago Giralda, who has been developing his latest works at the prestigious New York Pratt Institute, will lead the first of two exhibitions that Moisés Pérez de Albéniz Gallery is hosting this spring in New York. For two weeks, the space at 2 Rivington Street, which is located near the New Museum and the International Center of Photography, will present the artist Santiago Giralda's first solo show in New York, held from the 24th to the 29th of April. This show will be followed by a group exhibition from the 1st to the 6th of May featuring the work of seven MPA gallery artists who currently live and work in New York City.

The project is in keeping with Galería MPA's interest in testing new formats and innovative strategies to promote the work of its artists on an international scale, and it arises in response to current trends in experimenting with new alternatives to the contemporary art fair model as the only way of presenting artists' work outside of the gallery space. In the words of Moisés Pérez de Albéniz, "It's about taking in the current artistic panorama, trying other models, accepting the risk involved in leaving the comfort zone, and having the capacity to surprise and reinvent oneself."

### **Exhibition: Santiago Giralda**

#### **Title: Habitat**

Solo show | April 24-29

Opening with the artist: Wednesday April 25th, 5-8 pm

This exhibition features Giralda's most recent work, with paintings that are presented to the public for the first time and are the product of a practice that he put in place upon his arrival to New York: "I give a lot of importance to the fact that I am living in the place that I am investigating. As such, my process is based in photographing different places in the city, including botanical gardens, parks, and even plants in a flower pot in the middle of Fifth Avenue. I like to observe how adaptation occurs between urban and natural environments. In the past, I have composed images with my computer, editing the images with others that I would find online. This process is my way of connecting my work with a virtual media environment that I also consider to be part of the landscape. Then I paint the works utilizing a pictorial process that emphasizes the material and physical aspects of the painting. The process of painting permits me to link my work with a certain history, and to connect with a pace of viewing that proceeds from the margins of the speed of city and internet environments."

Giralda continues, "I approach the city as a paradigm of contemporary landscape. However, I am interested more in natural spaces that traverse the city. I want to investigate the place that nature occupies in such a contaminated context. Drawing from the images that I take of those natural enclosed environments, I paint compositions that represent nature as a sensual and rich experience. In a certain way, I

utilize painting to give another context to those natural spaces, and even if it is at a representative level, they read as exuberant natural scenes outside of the city environment as they find in painting a context far from ambient noise.”

When asked how working from New York has contributed to his practice, Giralda affirms, “I believe that this is a question of rhythm, visibility, and dimension. Here the speed is different, it seems like a race to produce and move on to the next stage as soon as possible, as if the present was only a moment of transition. Moreover, art is taken as a cultural product that has an important value for society, both at the critical and economic level. In this sense it is considered in a more global way than in Spain where everything is more local, individual, small-scale, and I would even say precarious. Another question that I think is fundamental to emphasize is that the dimension, the proportions here are different and the visual environment is at another scale. I’m interested in thinking about how spatial scale is a relative question to the consensus that we establish as humans. This perception also conditions my work.”

**Santiago Giralda** (Madrid, 1980) His solo debut in New York coincides with the intense work that he is developing in the Master of Fine Arts Painting and Drawing at the Pratt Institute thanks to the Fulbright grant that he was awarded a year after having been granted a fellowship at the Real Academia de España in Rome. He has been awarded numerous prizes, the most recent being Generaciones by Caja Madrid (2013). His work is featured in many collections, including those of the Ministerio de Cultura, Banco Santander, DKV, and Caja Madrid.

## **ABOUT THE GROUP SHOW**

### **Exhibition:**

**Dennis Adams · Victoria Civera · Santiago Giralda · Carlos Irijalba · Muntadas · Tony Oursler · Juan Uslé**

Group show | May 1-6

Opening with the artists: Tuesday May 1st, 5-8 pm

Next, Galería MPA will host a group exhibition of the seven artists represented by the gallery who currently live in New York City: Dennis Adams, Victoria Civera, Santiago Giralda, Carlos Irijalba, Muntadas, Tony Oursler and Juan Uslé. The show will take place from the 1st to the 6th of May, and coincides with New York Frieze Contemporary Art Fair week.

Some of the featured artists have lived in New York since the 1970s, as is the case with Muntadas; others, like Uslé and Civera, combine their residence in the city with stays in Spain; while Giralda and Irijalba moved to the city more recently. All of these artists, together with the Americans Adams and Oursler, form an unparalleled panorama that present a unique artistic perspective of the city through painting, installation-sculpture, graphic work, photography and video-sculpture.

**WHERE?: Galería MPA - New York.** 2 Rivington St. New York, NY 10002

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 11am to 8pm. Saturday & Sunday from 11am to 6pm

## **IMAGES CREDITS**

- Santiago Giralda: *Path 2*, 2018,
- Santiago Giralda: *Habitat*, 2018, detail.

## **CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION, IMAGES AND INTERVIEWS:**

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