

ARTISTS SPACE

223 West Broadway


New York, NY 10013

(212) 226-3970

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Kathleen Sweeney (212) 226-3970FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASEFIVE SPANISH ARTISTS: MIGUEL BARCELO, MIGUEL ANGEL CAMPANO, MENCHU LAMAS,
FERRAN GARCIA SEVILLA, JOSE-MARIA SICILIAOrganized by Donald Sultan
April 13 - May 11, 1985
Opening Reception: Saturday, April 13, 1985 5-7pm

Gallery Talk with Donald Sultan: Saturday April 20, 1985 3-4pm

Artists Space is pleased to announce the opening of FIVE SPANISH ARTISTS, on Saturday, April 13, 1985, from 5 to 7pm. The exhibition, which includes the work of MIGUEL BARCELO, MIGUEL ANGEL CAMPANO, MENCHU LAMAS, FERRAN GARCIA SEVILLA and JOSE-MARIA SICILIA, will be on view until Saturday, May 11, 1985.



In a statement included in the catalogue accompanying this exhibition, Donald Sultan, who selected the artists for the show, talks about his interest in Spanish painting. "When one stops to consider Cota, Melendez, Velasquez, El Greco, Goya, Picasso and Miro, one concludes that very few countries have had such a profound and continuing impact on the course of Western art. The new generation of artists carry this great legacy as well as the ambitions that are generated by the new." Donald Sultan had his first exhibition at Artists Space in 1977, and in 1979 organized a group show called Artists Draw. An exhibit of his new paintings will open on April 3rd at the BlumHelman Gallery and will run until the 27th.

MIGUEL BARCELO's technique utilizes found objects and sculptural elements in the creation of richly colored narrative paintings. Literary, biblical and mythical references play a role in the layering of the works which have certain level of playful theatricality. Barcelo's literary concerns often extend to the depiction of room environments crowded with a tumbling deluge of books and objects that threaten to overwhelm the sleeper or dreamer found within their midst. The recurrent reference to fish, the sea, and allusions to the deluge, add to the allegorical quality of the works.

One of Spain's better-known contemporary artists, Miguel Barcelo was born in Felanitx (Mallorca) in 1957. He has exhibited work in a broad network of European galleries in Paris, Toulouse, Zurich, Basel and Naples. In New York, he been included in group exhibitions at the Annina Nosei Gallery and the Museum of Modern Art. Represented by the Juana de Aizpuru Gallery in Madrid, Barcelo has also shown in many spaces in Barcelona, among them the Metronom and the Fundacion Miro.

MIGUEL ANGEL CAMPANO is a native of Madrid currently living in Paris. Strongly devoted to French painting, Campano recently exhibited an extended study of Delacroix's Raft of the Medusa, which filled two gallery spaces in an exploration of various perspectives and styles. In addition to those works influenced by the French schools, he also produces gestural paintings often hung as triptychs. Campano uses a combination of drip marks and frenetic brush strokes to describe his landscapes and interiors.

Born in 1948, Miguel Campano has been exhibiting his paintings since 1969. Though his exhibition history primarily concerns galleries in Spain, such as the recent "Cato Cero" show in Alicante, organized by Kevin Powers, he has also shown at the Espace Avant-Premiere in Paris, the Kunsthalle of Nuremburg, and at the National Art Gallery of Athens. He is represented by the Galeria Fernando Vijando in Madrid.

MENCHU LAMAS, a native of Vigo, Galicia, paints crude symbolic figures in bold hues which could be described as iconographic in style. Spanish peasant lore rises to the surface in pictogrammic forms that suggest stories through active symbols. The primitive quality of her work is not lost in crude technique. As Dan Cameron notes in a recent Art in America article on Spanish artists, "Her figures break down into bold, quasi-abstract forms but her paint handling prevents the image from being entirely graphic."

Born in 1954, Menchu Lamas had her first one-person exhibition in 1982 at the Galeria Buades, of Madrid, where she is currently represented. Most recent exhibitions include those at the Galeria Juana de Aizpuru in Sevilla, the Collectio de Arquiteros, Malaga and the Galeria Palace, Granada. Her most recent show abroad occurred in Hamburg and the Galeria Gabriel von Loeter.

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FERRAN GARCIA SEVILLA's iconography verges on the otherworldly. His chthonic forms of snakes, sun and moon, and totemic structures resemble cave wall petroglyphs in the reduced simplicity of their outlines. In his more detailed "city" paintings, disembodied faces and hands merge with and overpower the geometric configurations of buildings, leading to an almost entire blacking out of the canvas. Many of Sevilla's works arise in response to world events, such as the Israeli bombings of Beirut in 1982. The technique of splattered, caked paint that is employed amply expresses the emotional reaction of the artist to these dramatic events.

Born in Palma de Mallorca in 1949, Sevilla had many of his first exhibitions in Barcelona at La Caixa, Mataro Museum, Galeria G and Galeria Ciento. He has shown in Madrid at Galeria Maeght, Galeria Yorba and Galeria Juana de Aizpuru, where he is currently represented. His work has also been included in exhibitions in Vienna at the Galerie Ariadne, in Cologne at the Paul Maenz Galerie, and in Naples at the Galeria Liarumma. A leading critic of Catalan art, as well as a conceptual artist in the early 70s, he began painting in the late 70s to broaden his expressive range.

JOSE-MARIA SICILIA's painterly treatment of modern machinery reveals a fascination with and a certain anxiety about modern living. His use of vertical and horizontal strokes defines a background which simultaneously supports and contains the crudely outlined objects, or subjects of the paintings--vacuum cleaners, TV antennae, automobiles, wrenches. Sicilia has also explored the cityscape, often as a link to the TV antenna motif rising above the rooftops. His cityscapes, which also deal with the depiction of certain Parisian monuments, lend a new perspective to the tradition of landscape painting.

Jose-Maria Sicilia was born in Madrid in 1954. His first exhibition of paintings took place in 1982 at the Galerie Trans-Form in Paris, and was followed by inclusion in the Paris Biennale that same year. He has shown most recently at the Galeria Fernando Vijande, where he is represented, the Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, and the Galerie Nouvelles Images, The Hague, Holland. He has been included in this year's Paris Biennale.

Organized in conjunction with Spain's Ministry of Culture and the U.S.-Spanish Joint Committee for Cultural and Educational Cooperation, this exhibition marks Artists Space's third group exhibition from abroad. During the 1983-84 season, Artists Space also scheduled a series of International Projects which presented the work of four artists. This exhibition of Five Spanish Artists demonstrates Artists Space's continued interest in presenting high quality work by artists from outside the United States.

Five Spanish Artists will be accompanied by an illustrated catalogue with an Introduction by Francisco Calvo Serraller, Statements by Carmen Jimenez of the Spanish Ministry of Culture, Linda Shearer, Executive Director of Artists Space, and Donald Sultan. A specific essay on the work of each artist will also be included, as well as several color reproductions. Available at Artists Space: \$7.

Artists Space activities are made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts, a Federal agency; the New York State Council on the Arts; Edward R. Broida Trust, Jerome Foundation, Leonhardt Foundation, Betty Parsons Foundation, Mark Rothko Foundation; and Samuel Rubin Foundation; AT&T Communications, Chase Manhattan Bank, Citibank, Consolidated Edison, EXXON, Mobil Foundation, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, Paine Webber, Philip Morris and Shearson Lehman/American Express, as well as our numerous Friends.

Gallery hours are: Tuesday through Saturday, 11am to 6pm.