



GALLERIA CONTINUA

SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING LES MOULINS HABANA ROMA SAO PAULO PARIS

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OSVALDO GONZÁLEZ

Viaje

Opening Saturday 29th May 2021, via del Castello 11, 3pm-9pm

Until 31st August 2021, Monday to Sunday, 10am-1pm, 2-7pm, by appointment only

In order to respect safety regulations, it's necessary to book your visit via the appropriate form on galleriacontinua.com

Galleria Continua is pleased to present, for the first time in Italy, a solo show by Osvaldo González. Under the title *Viaje*, the Cuban artist takes a symbolic journey through some of his passions and main intellectual concerns. Amongst them: an interest in representing interior spaces that bear some relation to his personal vicissitudes, the expressivity that he sets out to achieve, both visually and sensitively, through a material such as packing tape, and a desire to craft new experiences through manipulating a physical space.

The exhibition is comprised of a site specific work, homonymous to the show, made with packing tape, and a set of installations from his most recent series *Archivo personal*, created with tape and resin on Plexiglas. In both works, the translucent effect of the material is accentuated by the light.

Viaje, by transforming the interior of Arco dei Becci's spaces and generating a sensorial experience on an architectural scale, satisfies one of the artist's obsessions: prompting physical sensations through the use of one material, tape. Upon entering the space, one may think that an amber resin has turned liquid, spilled, slid sideways, before being frozen and rising to the ceiling. Through uniting and separating different perspective points, the exhibition's scheme leads from the idea of being "inside" or "outside" the installation to the possibility of being trapped in an instant forever, like a mosquito inside an amber stone. The new internal logic of experiencing the space prompts a pleasant estrangement.

The starting images for the installations are from the artist's personal archive. They show us details of his domestic, family, work, and emotional environments. Although González generally focuses on interior spaces, in his work there is always a connection to the landscape, for example a stream of light that penetrates the scene through a door, a window or a staircase.

The journey González refers to is an intimate, meticulous voyage, one of reaffirmation in the pursuit of himself and of discovering himself in his maturity. However, this is not just an individual path. The subtlety of the images, their narrative settings and vanishing points exhort us to cross, together with the artist, "the threshold" of his works. Perhaps the most seductive work is *Templo*, the large-format polyptych that places us in front of a warm corner in González's home, where plants take center stage and in which various stories can be imagined. The inhabited space, although emptied of the human presence, turns us into accomplices of the artist.

Oswaldo González (Camagüey, Cuba, 1982) graduated from Havana's Higher Institute of Art in 2006. Amongst his main solo and group shows we mention: *Truc a Faire* (2020, Galleria Continua, Paris, France); *Mirador Circular* (2020, Galleria Continua, Havana, Cuba); *Ámbar* (2020, NC-Arte, Bogotá, Colombia); *The beginning of everything* (2019, Servando Gallery, Havana, Cuba); *Thresholds* (2019, Galleria Continua, Havana, Cuba); *Art of the Treasure Hunt* (2019, various venues, Tuscany, Italy); *Ola Cuba* (2018, Gare de Saint Sauveur, Lille, France); *Diamante en bruto* (2018, Galleria Continua, Havana, Cuba); *Cuba my love* (2017, Galleria Continua, Les Moulins, France); *Am I Cuba?* (2017, Palazzina dei Bagni Misteriosi, Milan, Italy); *Nido sin árbol* (2017, National Union of Architects and Construction Engineers of Cuba UNAICC, Havana); amongst other. In 2018 he received a scholarship by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund for the *Residency Unlimited* program in New York City and won the Acquisition Award for Best Emerging Artist at the Zona Maco art fair, Mexico City.

In compliance with the measures in place to contain the spread of Covid-19, admission to the exhibition will be limited.

For further information about the show and for photos:
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