

14.09.2005 – 04.11.2005

Juan Perdiguero – Naturaleza animal (Animal nature)

Opening: Wednesday 14th September 2005 at 8 pm.

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 11 am to 2 pm and 5 pm to 8' 30 pm.

Galgo Gris-Azul, 2005
Mixed technique on photography
106 x 158 cm



Juan Perdiguero's dogs are canine figures at turns winsome, magical and fierce. Produced at a scale three or four times larger than life, the images are luminous, seductively layered compositions rendered in ink and photographic emulsion.

Perdiguero mixes traditional strategies and unorthodox materials to create figures that affect the illusion of realism. At a distance, the figures look photographic; yet the work manipulates borders between media, merging expectations of painting, drawing and photography in ways that establish a surprising representational strategy in-between. Through the collage of photo-emulsion, the artist manipulates light, colour and pattern to create " a fictional sense of volume" and the illusion of realism.

Perdiguero includes dogs in straightforward postures, standing or seated as though for formal portraits, alongside other in strange, alien poses; the latter are frozen in moments of motion. Their forms are sometimes otherworldly, even monstrous, almost impossible to identify as "dog". Perdiguero uses scale to abstract the image even further. He returns the familiar to us as unfamiliar, as foreign, as other.

Dogs live on the margins of human culture, somewhere between the wild and tame, and it is this "strange edge" that attracts Perdiguero to his subject. Through dogs, he hopes to explore "the animalistic side of the human being and the humane side of the animal" The project is psychologically loaded, imbued with a symbolic legacy that connects humanity globally, across place and time.

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