

Marlborough

JUAN GENOVÉS RECENT PAINTINGS

SEPTEMBER 13 - OCTOBER 9, 2018

OPENING RECEPTION: SEPTEMBER 13, 6-8PM

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW YORK, NEW YORK: The Directors of Marlborough Gallery are pleased to announce an exhibition of new paintings by the renowned Spanish artist Juan Genovés. The exhibition will begin on September 13th and remain on view through October 9th, 2018.

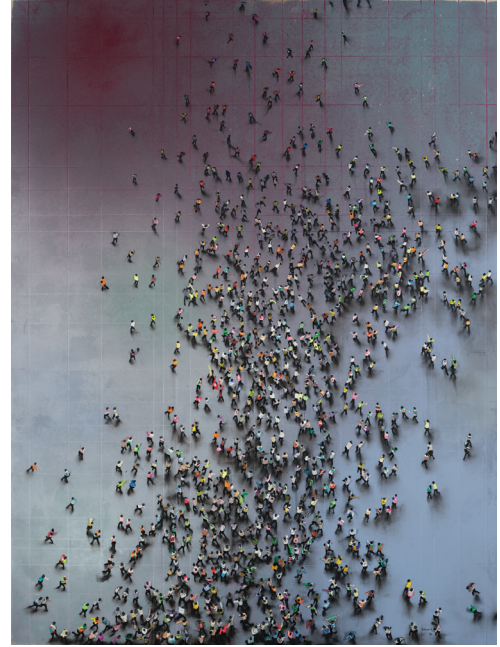
Born in Valencia, Spain in 1930, Genovés was a distinct voice who advocated for political change from the dictatorship of Franco, and his works created a stir in a country run under the regime. Among his original artistic influences were the films of Russian director Sergei Eisenstein, notably *Alexander Nevsky* and *Battleship Potemkin*, which also had an impact on the painter Francis Bacon.

Since the 1960s, Juan Genovés has explored depictions of crowds. Paintings by Genovés present bird's-eye views of scenes in which no buildings, roads, trees or clues to a common place are visible, thus creating a landscape of people in motion. As a child in Valencia, Genovés experienced the Spanish Civil War in a traumatic way. Memories of crowds of people running for shelter still distantly inform his work, although in recent years his compositions are less existential in tone but still cast a critical eye toward the tension that arises in hoards of people.

Genovés creates his distinctive figures from thickly applied acrylic paint that protrudes from the surfaces. The lines that reinforce the picture plane can be read as breaks in the image or as topographies encouraging the directional movement of the crowd. The cast shadow is an important element, with each figure being anchored by its unique shadow. In addition, beads and other small objects found by the artist are attached to the figures on the canvas and contribute to the individuality and character of each.

As the artist himself puts it:

“In the realm of visual art, each element is not limited to one function alone, rather it has many. For me, the little figures fulfill the missions of realism and humanity, in that they represent how we are all the same, but also different. Visually, they occupy points in space. Any grouping in space that occurs by chance indicates “normalcy” to the eyes of the spectator. But if we add one or more elements to modify it, it immediately becomes “false” for the viewer. For me, that presents a problem. I am learning to modify the “normal”, without what is “false” becoming apparent. I use what is called VP3 in three point perspective: it is the third vanishing point, where the verticals vanish; but I lay traps, in which the illusion is not apparent, and therefore, appears to be real. However, I am certain that these elements have other functions which I have yet to discover. I have always been a collector of “found objects”. They thrill me, and I have thousands, which I use with pleasure.”



Persisten, 2018
acrylic on board
78 3/4 x 59 in., 200 x 150 cm

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Paintings by Juan Genovés are a part of more than 60 museums and important public collections, especially in the United States and Europe, including The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL; Centre National d'Art Contemporain, Paris, France; The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain; Museum Moderner Kunst, Vienna, and Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany.

An illustrated color catalogue will be available during the exhibition.



Axioma #1, 2017
acrylic on canvas on board
39 3/8 x 39 3/8 in., 100 x 100 cm

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