

Juan Angel González de la Calle

Juan Angel Gonzalez de la Calle is, without doubt, a painter who takes risks, is disturbing and is unique; these three adjectives make him an indispensable reference to the current Spanish scene.

His radicalism was born of the explosive mixture of the main key points of Classical painting (figurative narrative, technical) and the questioning of the contemporary world (banality, comprehensiveness, civility). The visual narratives of Gonzalez de la Calle are a mix of these two opposites joined by three powerful engines of the mind: mystery, humor and a complex feeling that can only be said in German: *umheinlich*. When something fails in a logical sequence, our mind begins to spin out of control. The brain does not accept paradoxes and unsolved riddles, to resolve this, the mind repeats over and over again, obsessively, searching for a meaning. The images in the paintings of Juan Angel, respond to this arcane brain mechanism, creating an iconography which leaves indelible memories on the retina of which we cannot let go, like some dreams.

One of the most fascinating features of the narrative is the ability to sustain different levels of interpretation. Perhaps what differentiates a masterpiece apart is the dimension of depth, the existence of several layers below the surface message. For its construction, Juan Angel uses a tool very little used in art today: a sense of humor. This is a very complex tool, humor serves the artist to shape memories, disrupt platitudes and to emphasize his characters' fetishness. This gives a patina of humor friendly air to all his work and increases, in turn, the rarity and attractiveness of the paintings of Juan Angel Gonzalez de la Calle.

Extract from Luis Salvador Carulla



Los pajaros del sillón
vinyl and oil on card, 100x70cm 2010