



L'Atlas invites

Rolf Art (Buenos Aires)

For the exhibition of

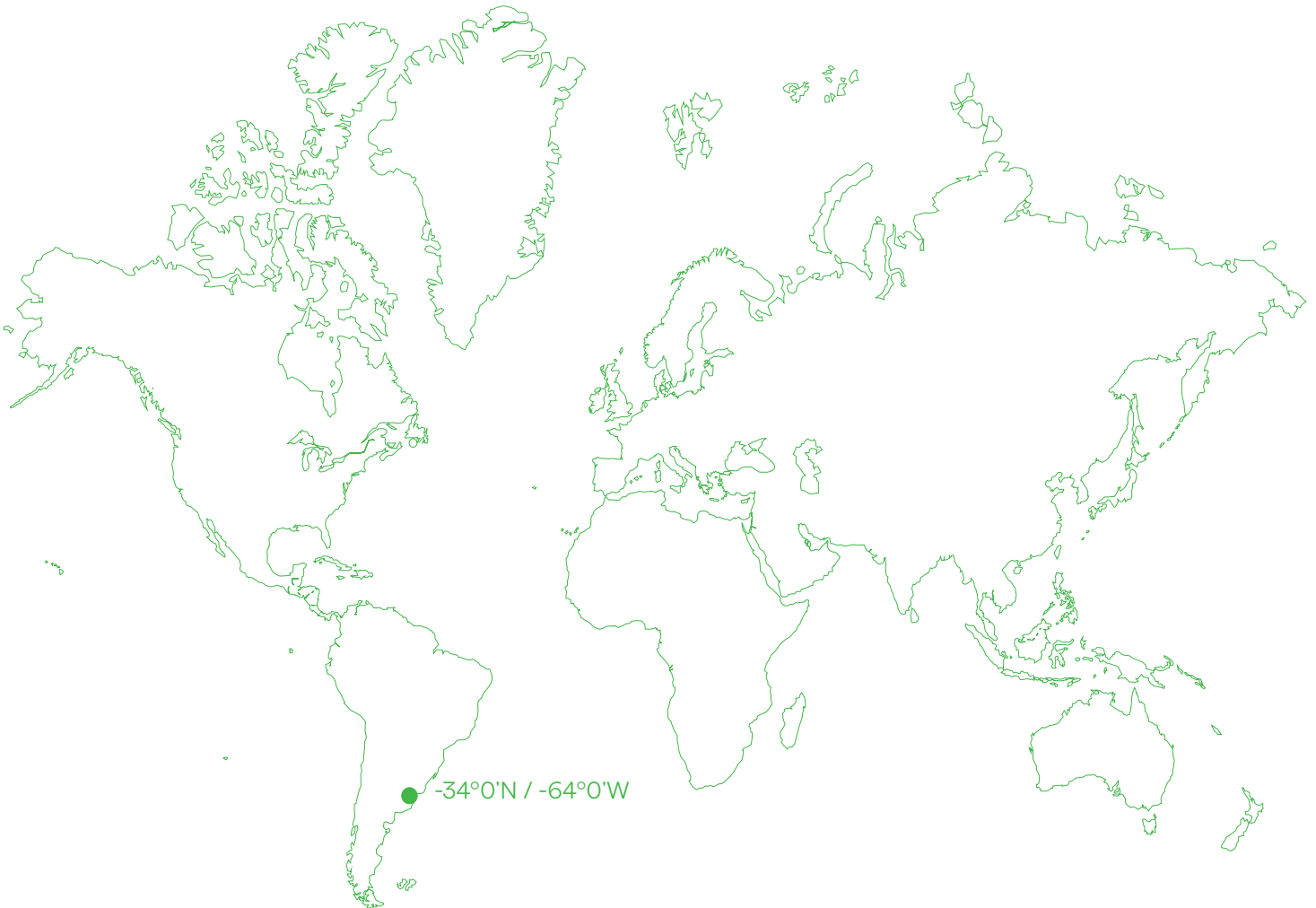
Santiago Porter

Donde nunca haya estado

Where I have never been

29.10.24—21.12.24

Opening Tuesday October 29 from 6 to 9pm



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I Rolf Art

L'Atlas and Rolf Art are pleased to present *Donde nunca haya estado*¹, a solo show by Santiago Porter. Curated by Joaquín Boz, it displays the most recent works of the Argentinian artist, in resonance with works characteristic of his production. From the purist *Piezas* series (1997-2002), also visible at Paris Photo 2024, through the emblematic landscapes of the *Brumas* series (2001-2017), the exhibition leads to the latest pictorial explorations of Santiago Porter within the boundaries of the image.

Donde nunca haya estado announces a turning point, a new approach by Santiago Porter. Working with organic, unstable, strange, and foreign materials Porter makes a leap & turns the page to stay longer within the painting practice. He enters into an unresolved space, with close references, forgetting any learned techniques, even to erase and try to understand new gestures. Porter wants to unlock something and that seems to be the cause of his entry into painting. He comes back to us with deliberate questions.

How do we get into places we've never been? Should it affect us? And if it affects us, how are we affected? What do we leave out and what do we take with us? And for an idea to be unlocked? An extensive period of time that proposes to release a new form, in this opportunity, perhaps forever.



About :

Rolf Art, located in Buenos Aires and founded in 2009 by Florencia Giordana Braun, is the only art gallery specialized in technical image in Argentina. Focused on contemporary Latin American visual arts, the gallery represents and promotes a selected group of artists & Estates that explore the limits of the image in its several expressions. Rolf Art develops a solid global program comprising research and archive work, exhibitions, sustained participation in leading international art & photo fairs, editorial and audiovisual projects, educational and training courses, institutional collaborations, and public and private acquisitions management; positioning the work of Latin American artists internationally and contributing to the legitimation of the visual expressions from the Latin American region worldwide.

II *Donde nunca haya estado*

Santiago Porter has worked stubbornly through photography and painting on the deep and sensitive relationship between the aspect of things and their history. From his images, the vestiges (personal and private, public and collective) show that nothing and nobody disappears completely, nothing and nobody can become in total absence. From the investigation, turned into silent observation, Porter records the imprint of existence that is forever impregnated in materialities, he reflects on condensed memory, time and the history of peoples as a community. The individual stories and the social frameworks.

Porter applies in his work a point of view that runs along the edges, the margins, looking beyond the obvious of the common place where the gaze can stop. His photographs show us what things evoke, they reveal their essence and they are not satisfied with their literal appearance because the interest doesn't lie there but in the hidden, silenced aspect of their existence. Some sort of radiography of the invisible. The poetic density of his work is in tune with the technical and plastic resources that he uses to capture those dense, uninhabited, stripped, gray, and overwhelmingly lonely atmospheres but which hide behind their veil, the DNA of their existence.



Sin título #32, 2020-2022, huile sur toile, 35 x 45 cm

Santiago Porter

Born in 1971 in Buenos Aires
(Argentina)

Where he lives and works

Santiago Porter's photographs can be defined as a documentation of time within time. He does not give false claim of writing a new history, but explores what has been written in its margins; that, which is not monumentalised, and for this reason is still breathing below the surface.

For him, photography is a necessity rather than a choice; it is not an instantaneous exercise in which images are recorded without conciliation of time and context. Porter composes photographs with contemplative patience and metric concentration, deploying resources that retain our attention and guide us to consider the idea or motivation that led him to document these moments. His photographs do not show us things as they are, but instead they exacerbate the sense acquired when being photographed.

Porter's precious technique is integral to his photographs; the forward-facing camera angles and large-scale presentations are sufficient in terms of denotative effect. It is the simple act of shooting, transforming objects into images that makes the weight of history more tangible in the present. The real aim of Santiago Porter's images serves to construct memories that question the past.

He has been awarded with distinctions and received many accolades, such as the Guggenheim Scholarship (2002),

the Fundación Antorchas Scholarship of Buenos Aires (2002), the First Award of Photography by the Central Society of Architects of Buenos Aires (2007), Konex Visual Arts Award (2022) and was selected to take part in the Artist's Program at the Universidad Di Tella in Buenos Aires (2011). He has published numerous books such as *Pieces* (2003), *The absence* (2007) and *Mist* (2017).

His work has been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, United States, Spain, France, Germany, Switzerland and Egypt. Nowadays, his work is part of important national and international collections such as Museum of Latin American Art of Buenos Aires – MALBA (Argentina), National Museum of Fine Arts – MNBA (Buenos Aires, Argentina), Museum of Modern Art of Buenos Aires – MAMBA (Argentina), The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles (USA), JP Morgan Chase Collection, New York, (USA), Fondation Antoine de Galbert, Paris (France), Petrobras Collection (Argentina), Rabobank Collection (Argentina), among others.

Santiago Porter is currently a Professor at the Department of Social Sciences at the University of San Andrés and in the Photography Degree at the National University of San Martín.

IV

L'Atlas

Created and supported by Emerige, L'Atlas, galerie des mondes invites international galleries, foundations, or institutions to exhibit one or more artists from contemporary scenes that are underrepresented in France. In partnership with these major stakeholders in the world of contemporary art abroad, L'Atlas proposes an original and innovative model : a joint curation of the 5 annual exhibitions by Emerige's art projects Director Paula Aisemberg and the invited partner. These exhibitions

come with a cultural programme (conferences, meetings, readings, screenings, or concerts) and educational visits or workshops aimed at a wide audience. L'Atlas allows its partners to set up a branch in the heart of the Parisian capital for two months, in line with the calendar of major artistic events (fairs, biennials, etc.). L'Atlas is an open door to the world, a showcase for the most dynamic private or public actors and a meeting place for artists, professionals, and the general public.

V

The Emerige group

As a patron of culture and a passionate defender of contemporary creation year after year, Emerige supports events in France and abroad that promote the French art scene. Through its grant "Bourse Révélations Emerige" created in 2014, it offers the young generation of visual artists the opportunity to make a name for themselves and to join leading galleries. Convinced that art can change everyday life, Emerige encourages the bringing together of culture with all audiences, especially the youngest. It supports artistic

and cultural education programs such as « Une journée de vacances à Versailles », the Collège de France Foundation, the « Festival d'Automne » and Gérard and Elizabeth Garouste's association « La Source Garouste ».

As first signatory of the charter « 1 immeuble, 1 oeuvre », Emerige contributes to the rise of art in the city by installing a work in each building it builds. Nowadays, this is more than 60 works installed and more than 100 000 residents who have access to art daily.

VII

Incoming exhibition

ZAHORIAN & VAN ESPEN
Bratislava, Slovakia
48°40'S / 18°30'W

15.01.25 - 08.03.25

ZAHORIAN & VAN ESPEN is a contemporary art gallery based in Prague (Czech Rep) and Bratislava (Slovakia). Since its foundation in 2011, it has become one of the leading galleries in the Central European region, representing both established artists and emerging talent.

By establishing a strong portfolio and distinctive curatorial approach, the gallery seeks to connect local artists with the global art scene, showcasing their work not only in its gallery spaces but also at international art fairs. In addition to its rich exhibition program, the gallery is dedicated to supporting the production of artworks and publishing activities, focusing on catalogues and monographic publications dedicated to individual artists. In doing so, the gallery cooperates with international curators.

Moreover, the gallery offers a variety of public lectures and professional initiatives to promote contemporary art, thus playing a central role in the broader cultural landscape of the Central European region.



Contacts

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Free entrance from Tuesday to Saturday, from 12 to 7pm and by appointment



Photo : Aurélien Mole