



PRESS RELEASE

ISABEL CROXATTO GALERÍA PRESENTS *AD HOMINEM*, SOLO EXHIBITION BY THE TEXTILE ARTIST PALOMA CASTILLO

Isabel Croxatto Galería, international art platform based in Santiago, Chile, presents *Ad Hominem*, solo exhibition by the textile artist **Paloma Castillo**. The show, curated by the artist and academic **Leonardo Casas**, gathers 23 recent hand-embroideries that provide a commentary on Chilean social events and will open on **29 September** as part of the fifth edition of **Gallery Weekend Santiago**, running on-site until 27 October.

Paloma Castillo's career had a meteoric rise over the last year: after *Ex Post*, her first solo exhibition at Isabel Croxatto Galería in late 2020, the artist was included by Artsy in its editorial *Trailblazing Latina Women* alongside outstanding Latin American creators such as Graciela Iturbide, Doris Salcedo and Marta Minujin. Furthermore, she successfully participated in Art Central Hong Kong last March with Isabel Croxatto Galería in the exhibition *Here/There* curated by the fair's director, André Chan, and was featured in several international publications, such as Vogue Hong Kong and Textiel Plus (the Netherlands).

Ad Hominem, Paloma Castillo's latest project, takes its name from the Latin expression ("to the person") and alludes to a fallacious argument in which a thesis is considered false based solely on the person who made it, seeking to discredit them rather than their position. "We live in a reality that has become a territory of truths established from fallacies", the artist observes.

The exhibition consists of a series of 23 never before seen hand embroideries, created between late 2020 and mid-2021, which explore the social issues that concern Chile and the world, as a follow-up to her previous production *Ex Post*. Through meticulous work and vibrant colours, Castillo presents personal experiences and everyday life while including mythological tales and the depiction of extravagant characters.



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Paloma Castillo draws on references ranging from Andy Warhol's iconic *Campbell's Soup Can* - repurposed as a Molotov cocktail bomb - to the Brigada Ramona Parra, shaping her own aesthetic in which different layers of interpretation are revealed, starting from the beauty of the pictorial to a sharp and playful social critique of the current Chilean context.

Paloma Castillo, who for years made a career as a designer and layout artist in publishing houses and newspapers in Santiago, is highly influenced by current affairs. Her upbringing was surrounded by an artistic environment linked to Chilean theatrical design. "I come from a seamstress grandmother and a stage and costume designer a mother; the world of textile materials is something that I have loved since I was a child. I also have a great passion for fashion and fashion designers", she says.

The exhibition is curated by the visual artist, academic and independent editor **Leonardo Casas**, who in his curatorial text comments: "The exploration of the language interplay, and how it defines the 'meaning' of a reality from a statement, leads Paloma Castillo to create a body of work composed of imaginaries whose signifying attributes are sufficiently broad". "These are stripped of their symbolic rigidity to enter into a dynamic flow of universal meanings and images, suggesting affinities between Castillo's work and a stream of artists who expand the focus from applied arts to the language of contemporary art", he adds.

Ad Hominem is presented within the 5th edition of **Gallery Weekend Santiago**, an annual event that invites audiences to rediscover the city through the visual arts, promoting art collecting, boosting the national art circuit and making galleries visible as spaces open to the public. Its 2021 edition, from 29 September to 3 October, will take place in a hybrid form, combining the on-site with the virtual. Among the activities that Isabel Croxatto Galería will be holding are guided tours with the artist on Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 October. In its 2018 version, the Valparaíso-based artist **Juvenal Barría**, together with Isabel Croxatto Galería, received the **Best Exhibition Award** for his solo show *InfiltradaX*.

Ad Hominem, a solo exhibition by **Paloma Castillo**, can be visited from 29 September to 27 October at **Isabel Croxatto Galería**, with free admission and prior appointment at contacto@isabelcroxattogaleria.com



ISABEL CROXATTO

GALERIA

AD HOMINEM | PALOMA CASTILLO

Curator | Leonardo Casas

29 September – 27 October | 2021

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Paloma Castillo is a textile artist and editorial designer, Bachelor in Visual Arts from the ARCIS Institute in Santiago.

Hailing from a family closely related to Chilean theatre through stage design, and descending from a designer mother and a seamstress grandmother, Paloma started her career as a graphic designer, being part of the editorial teams of newspapers such as Fortín Mapocho, La Nación, Estrategia and Diario Financiero, among others, as well as publishing houses Metales Pesados, ARCIS, and LOM, in Santiago.

Her artistic creation is based on textile art and embroidery, dealing with issues that cross politics, technology, myth and modernity. Her production poses to the spectator the poetics of the return to the analogue object and the reflection of the making, in a context that is increasingly distant from craftsmanship. She was recently featured by Artsy in their editorial *Traiblazing Latina Women* dedicated to Latin female artists breaking barriers in the art scene.

Paloma has exhibited individually and collectively since 2013 in spaces such as Isabel Croxatto Galería, Galería de Arte Posada del Corregidor, Galería AQUÍ and Galería PANAM, in Chile; and Galerie des Petits Carreaux, in France. In addition, she has participated in prominent international fairs, such as Art Central Hong Kong (2021) and ArteBa (2020) with Isabel Croxatto Galería.

Her work is part of institutional and private collections in Chile, Argentina, the United States, Spain, France, Germany, Sweden and Hong Kong.

Paloma Castillo lives and works in Santiago.



LEONARDO CASAS | BIO

Santiago, Chile, 1974

Leonardo Casas is a visual artist, academic and independent editor, Bachelor of Arts from the Universidad de Chile.

His work and projects have been exhibited in galleries, cultural centres and museums in Chile, the United States, Italy and Japan, participating in solo and group shows at the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Museo de Artes Visuales, Galería Gabriela Mistral, Galería BECH, Centro Nacional de Arte Contemporáneo and Centro Cultural de España (Santiago); CBGB's CB 313 Gallery and Pleiades Gallery (New York), and Tangent Gallery (Detroit), among other venues.

In parallel to his artistic activity, from 2006 to 2016 he lectured on art and political discourses in Latin America at the School of Government of the Universidad de Chile (Santiago), as well as curating exhibitions focused on artists linked to the Chilean underground scene and as a contributor writer for Artishock Magazine.

Since 2016, Casas edits and publishes the zine *Estrellita Mía*, dedicated to underground art and culture, featuring the work of more than 150 artists and contributors from Chile, Argentina, Mexico, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Israel, Japan and Australia.

Leonardo Casas lives and works in Santiago.





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Isabel Croatto Galería was founded in 2012 by Chilean choreographer **Isabel Croatto** centred on presenting, supporting, and promoting contemporary art from the South of the world. In 2020, Isabel Croatto Galería incorporated ICG+, an innovative virtual exhibition conveying architectural elements and technology into an art of experience, introducing contemporary Latin American artists to a broader global audience. The gallery has established international recognition with institutions and collectors at art fairs in Art Central Hong Kong and Contemporary Istanbul and built a qualitative program of group shows through global, collaborative curatorships. The gallery represents a dynamic constellation of artists working within contemporary issues of the human condition; from the intimate and social body, from memory and archive, from the analogue and the digital.

Isabel Croatto Galería is a member of AGAC, Association of Contemporary Art Galleries of Chile, sponsored by SÍSMICA, sector brand for the Chilean visual arts, and ProChile, agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Chile for the promotion of Chilean industries abroad.

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