

# Galería Elba Benítez



## **ALEJANDRO CAMPINS**

### *Espacio rígido*

September – November 2022

The Galería Elba Benítez is pleased to announce the coming exhibition of work by Alejandro Campins, opening on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Titled *Espacio rígido* [Rigid Space], the exhibition will present new works from Campins's series *Tibet*, which is based on one of the most fascinating geographical regions of the contemporary world: the northern plateau of the Himalayas, known as the Roof of the World. Taking as their conceptual point of departure the odyssey of cultural transformation, the paintings seek to capture not only the natural landscape, but also the conflict behind that lies behind of its veil of its stunning beauty: the impact of the Chinese Cultural Revolution on Tibetan Buddhism. In this environment, where dualities and accidents are considered to be non-existent, no more than appearances, architectural ruins take on immense importance as a synthesis of conflict and metamorphosis.

For Campins, landscapes are not only physical or imaginary: they are also metaphysical spaces that destabilize our familiar empirical concerns and concepts by revealing their structures and questioning their conditions. They are not a representation of things, but rather an ontological event, an opening, a revelation of the world.

The paintings of Alejandro Campins (Manzanillo, Cuba, 1981; lives and works between Madrid and Havana) conjure dreamlike states and spaces of uncanny landscapes and ambiguous structures, of observed reality and illusory imagination. In Campins work, technique and imagery come together to evoke otherworldly atmospheres that suggest emptiness but at the same time seem filled with a psychological charge that is as powerful as it is silent. Executed primarily in oil paint (as well as with watercolor and pencil), Campins canvases display a classically-grounded command of line and composition and a heightened sensibility for chromatic hues and overtones. His brushwork is subtle but assured and his use of color is muted but finely calibrated, yielding veiled and seemingly weathered surfaces that echo the content of the paintings' imagery. In Campins's work there is a sense that past and future are overlaid, remembrance and imagination are intertwined, permanence and impermanence co-exist. Ultimately, the paintings, through their enigmatic simplicity, emanate a quality of timelessness – the timelessness of dreams, of memory, of ruins, even of death.

Alejandro Campins studied at the Academia Profesional de Artes Plásticas El Alba (Holguin, 2000) and the Universidad de las Artes (ISA) (Havana, 2009). Campins has exhibited individually at Fondazione Giuliani (Rome, 2021), Centro Wilfredo Lam (Havana, 2018); Fototeca de Cuba (Havana, 2016); Factoría Habana (2012) and Fundación Ludwig (Havana, 2008). He has participated in group exhibitions at UNAICC - Unión Nacional de Arquitectos e Ingenieros de la Construcción de Cuba (Havana, 2017), Franco Parenti Theater (Milan, 2017); the Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, 2017); The Museum of Fine Arts (Houston, 2017); the Museum of Art and Design (Miami, 2016) and the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (Havana, 2013). Campins was invited to participate at the the 13th Bienal de la Habana (2019), the 58th Biennale di Venezia (2019) and the 11th Bienal de la Habana (2012). Some of his works are in collections such as the Banco de España (Madrid), Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (Havana); Voorlinden Museum (Wassenaar); Pizzuti Collection (Columbus); Maison Européenne de la Photographie (Paris) or Daros Latinamerica Collection (Zurich).

*Espacio rígido* is Alejandro Campins' first solo exhibition at Galería Elba Benítez and forms part of the Apertura Madrid Gallery Weekend, from September 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

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Alejandro Campins, *Visión afortunada*, 2022

With the collaboration of Galleria Continua, Havana

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