

ARTEMIO

Murder Ballads

March 18 – May 07, 2011

'Back in the day Artemio decided to become an artist, it became clear to him that art was a social and a political practice. He felt the urge to leave the studio and start making works with a high degree of humour, interactivity and collaboration. One early project, following these paradigma's, was an intervention he undertook at several video stores. He systematically rented all available copies from different movies, took them to his studio, altered the editions (he erased all traumatic scenes from Bambi) and then returned the videos to the store, as if nothing had happened. For Artemio art is not limited to museums and galleries. He became interested in power structures and especially in how power is exercised through mass media. He developed awareness of how overbearing and manipulative mass media can be. He began to understand all these facts as a form of violence. Violence then became one of the main concepts to work with. A breakthrough was his video "Gladiator". He created his own version of the movie; editing out every character in the film, except for the Gladiotor. In this three minute cut a lonely man seems to be fighting his ghosts, his fears, out of his mind. Artemio's works reflect his interests in the appropriation of mass media's, institutional and popular culture's languages, in order to create satirical representations of power and violence. To create deconstructive narratives. Slowly he started to experiment with design platforms and installation. Representative of these, are his mandalas made out of weapon imagery, his Children Playground (2010) designed out of molecular structures of recreational drugs, the media effect in social problems such as Ciudad Juarez (Untitled, a Portrait of 485 assassinated Women, 2008-2010). Artemio is not a naïve person, he knows art will not change the world. But art is able to greater understandings. A powerfull tool. Not a mirror, rather a hammer. This exhibition comprises of three impressive works. One is the video 'Gladiator' (2004, 2'47"). The second work is a mandala of weapon-images 'ChakrAK-47' (2011, neon), in which the used colours refer to the flags of Belgium and Congo and Mexico. In this way Artemio shows every nation's difficult relationship with history, power, violence and corruption On the floor you find 'Peacemaker' (2011, traditionally hand made ceramic floor tiles / dimensions variable (tile 33x33cm). Traditional in the way Azulejos are made in the south of Europe. The tiles show a pattern made with the silhouettes of old-fashioned guns.