

Daniel G. Andújar

Damnatio Memoriae, alquimistas, bufones y máscaras

20.5.23 – 1.7.23

àngels barcelona

c. Pintor Fortuny, 27, 08001, Barcelona

"*Damnatio Memoriae, Alchemists, Jesters, and Masks*" is a new project by Daniel García Andújar that deconstructs traditional narratives and subverts reality.

Regardless of the era, civilization, technology, or culture, humans repeat certain behaviors in cycles. The recent global trend of tearing down statues deemed unworthy is one such example. The Romans had a term for this social overthrow: "damnatio memoriae" or "condemnation of memory," which involved erasing all traces and heritage of a person considered disgraceful by the people or their political enemies. This practice is not a Roman invention, it was used by civilizations as ancient as the Hittites and the Egyptians.

The human's inevitable tendency for reductionism and trying to explain what we don't understand in a simple way can also be a daily form of "canceling." Like erasing a bad memory or a contact from the phone trying to remove a person from our memory. These are everyday actions that we have all wished to carry out at a certain moment. And if we talk in biological and ecological terms, the disappearance of all members of a species, their extinction, is associated with an exercise of concealment and forgetfulness that is all too common.

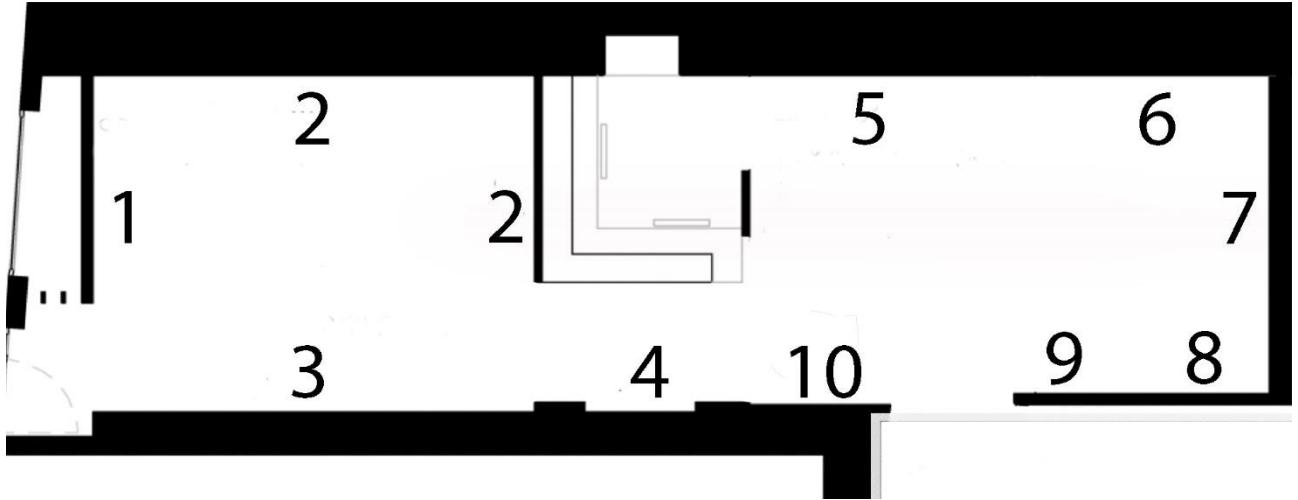
The image is a mirage created by the machinery of power. History is a construction based on the interpretation and selection of certain facts and events to the detriment of others, which manipulates collective memory through the biased selection and interpretation of images, facts, and historical events. In an era where technologies like artificial intelligence popularize the questioning of the use of the image as a document of truth, it is inevitable to regain a critical and distrustful look towards the construction of images.

The work of **Daniel G Andújar** (Almoradí, Alicante, 1966) explores issues of democracy and inequality in our current information society. Always with a touch of irony, he questions how the use of new technologies affects and transforms us in our daily experience and he also criticizes the will to control that which is hidden behind their apparent transparency.

His internet-based works, videos or installations show that a certain criteria must be established in order to select, order and interpret this data and, particularly, look for that which has been hidden between the lines and left in the margins.

He has given and conducted workshops and seminars for artists and social collectives in numerous countries. His works have been shown in international exhibitions, including Manifesta 4 and the 56th Venice Biennale. In 2017 he participated in Documenta 14 in Athens and Kassel. The Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía hosted a comprehensive solo exhibition in 2015, curated by Manuel Borja-Villel. In 2018 he held a solo exhibition at the Centro de Carne in Valencia and in 2020, at La Virreina, Centro de la Imagen in Barcelona, both curated by Valentí Roma. In 2022 he held the exhibition Patente de Corso at Es Baluard, Palma de Mallorca, curated by its director, Imma Prieto. It is currently on view at the Museo de Antropología in Madrid until May 28th.

Gallery map:



- 1 **Ars gratia artista** (Art for art's sake), 2023. Mixed media on canvas. 33 x 41 cm.
- 2 **Es gibt kein kulturwerk, das nicht zugleich ein dokument der barbarei ist.** ["There is no document of culture that is not at the same time a document of barbarism"] quote by Walter Benjamin. Canvas, frame, projection and robot. 180 x 180 cm. Variable dimensions.
- 3 **Kulturkampf** (Culture wars), 2023. Digital textile printing. 270 x 220 cm.
- 4 **Wander-Weide photographic method.** 25 x 31,5 cm. Original lithograph.
- 5 **Destruction is not an accident.** Mixed media on canvas. 46 x 55 cm.
- 6 **Last seen.** 18 diptychs (29,5 x 42 cm. each) Digital print on Hahnemühle paper and plexiglas. Dimensiones instalación: 63 x 399 cm.
- 7 **Old Fake News.** Digital prints on Hahnemühle paper. 52,5 x 37,5 cm. c/u.
- 8 **Damnatio memoriae.** Relief on wood and 3D sculptures. 82 x 52 cm. / 44 x 40 x 40 cm.
- 9 **El rayo que no cesa (M.H.).** 7 digital prints on paper 30,5 x 22 / black canvas 26,5 x 22. Installation: 63 x 93 cm.
- 10 **Cultura de la cancelación (Cancel culture).** 56 digital prints on paper and plexiglas. 29,5 x 21 cm. c/u. Installation: 210 x 168 cm.