

TRAVESIA CUATRO

WALKING BERRY

VICKY USLÉ

3rd of April, 2008 - 17th of May, 2008

TRAVESIA CUATRO presents "Walking Berry", the first solo exhibition in the gallery by Spanish artist Vicky Uslé (Cantabria, 1981).

Large, bright, abstract paintings and a drawing series make up Victoria Uslé's first solo show at TRAVESIA CUATRO in Madrid. The works are all the same size, but could not be more different from one another. Thick, thin, watered down, built up, dripped, scribbled, lush, harsh, jagged, molded, loose, painterly, colorful, and awkward each mark in the piece is considered.

Looking at these paintings one feels the artist is stretching her own limits as well as those of the paintings. Each piece incorporates elements of painting and drawing. She usurps styles, lines, pattern, textile, calligraphy, culture, and genres and manipulates them into her own collage of images, form, color and texture. One never feels as though they are looking at an image which is copied, rather a new object which she has created.

Her titles add another layer of depth and information to the pieces. "Weh" for instance, the German word for grief, is a sparse painting of cranes falling from the sky onto a cluster of large, thick finger like silhouettes, each outlined in a different color. The soft white background reinforces the titles as it is a color of mourning for so many cultures. While the brightly colored forms rising from the base of the painting keep the message from becoming too strong, didactic or heavy handed.

This suggestive approach extends to the subtle humor in her paintings which sneaks up on the viewer, although it is bizarre and undeniable once it has been seen. In "Fortress and Limbo" a thin, thickly painted black line flies across a blank section of the painting, with splats of green neon hitting it along the way, as though it has been caught trying to run off the painting. In another piece "Cero Roto" bright, neon yellow semi circles creep in a line up the central object of the painting. The form of the semi circle is so common, simple, and passive but it is the neon yellow color of the object, which makes this otherwise inconspicuous form shout out for attention.

Playful, serious, fun and funny this body of work is an open and honest expression of where Victoria stands with her painting now. Each piece is fresh, and a pleasure to look at. As a whole the works create an exciting dynamic to move forward.

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