

CESAR MENÉNDEZ



Nostalgias de la Memoria 2003
Oil on canvas

By Gregorio Luke

Looking at César Menéndez's paintings is like entering into a dream; that is, to consciously explore the subconscious. His art possesses the beauty of mystery, the richness of ambiguity; each painting is an invitation to fly.

Menéndez's creative process is based precisely on combining the conscious and the subconscious. He begins each painting by applying watered down black acrylic onto the canvas with a broad brush. He then leaves the canvas for hours or day, after which he returns to explore the shadows he has painted, finding in them images that will materialize during the painting process.

Some of the images such as

In the final phase of creation, he locks himself in his studio for months, painting furiously, transforming those shadows into his own personal iconography.

trains, dogs and nude torsos are recurrent, but the outcome is always uncertain. guided by a force beyond him. The act of painting is a process of revelation that is only fully comprehended when the painting is completed.



Canción al silencio 1990
Oil on canvas (fragment)

César Menéndez

Menéndez perceives himself as a channel, whose hands are guided by a force beyond him. The act of painting is a process of revelation that is only fully comprehended when the painting is completed.

The result of Menéndez's paintings is startling. Some paintings work like oracles, announcing births or deaths, others have a strange foreboding quality. Once, he painted a woman hanging dead. A week later a plane crashed into Mt. San Vicente and a flight attendant appeared in the newspaper in the same position as the woman he had painted.

More importantly, his paintings enable us to peek into our own inner abyss. They reveal a world where all of our senses have been heightened. It is as if we were in a hallucinatory state or in the most intense part of a dream. It is in this state of hypersensitivity that reality has been transformed; past and future have dissolved into the present. Everything is infused with premonition and desire; the doors of perception have been opened...



Canción al silencio 1990
Oil on canvas