

Press Release

Francisco Valdés Manual

22 August – 15 September 2023



Detail: Francisco Valdés, *391 The Technique of Picture Making*, 2023

Cecilia Brunson Projects is pleased to present *Manual*, an exhibition by Francisco Valdés (b. 1968, Santiago de Chile). The London-based artist will present a new body of paintings and sculpture that give form to optical sensations and deviations, forming a dialectic between the images we create and the ones we perceive.

Valdés painting practice reflects a continuing development of these ideas, considering what is lost and gained in the reproduction, transmission and mediation of images. His research was initially informed by the questions posed by Denis Diderot in 'A Letter on the Blind' (1749), where he observed that blind people are affected by the sensation of air between the fingers, a kind of tactility of light, creating other ways of knowing and learning about objects that speak of the permeability of the senses.

The paintings in this exhibition are based on the pages of a photography instruction manual, which lays out the technical rights and wrongs of the picture making process. When translated to the medium of painting, the pages become introspective, relaying their own process of coming into being as a concrete image. Valdés's paintings are overlaid by networks

of lines, recalling printing techniques such as halftone or Roy Lichtenstein's Ben Day dots. They lend an intangible quality to the underlying images, which come into focus or seemingly evaporate as the viewer approaches. Valdés seeks to evoke the optic variations caused by atmospheric conditions, artificial lights and camera flashes. The pictures, distanced and dissipated by his painterly interventions, ultimately challenge the notion of a singular and true image, whether experienced directly or frozen on film.

Valdés holds an MFA from Goldsmiths College in London, where he currently lives and works. From 2003 to 2005 he attended the postgraduate studio programme at the Jan van Eyck Akademie, Maastricht, Netherlands. Recent solo exhibitions include *PAGES*, Venue MOT, London (2021), *Fantasma Escandinavo e Outras Pinturas*, Adelina Galeria, São Paulo, Brazil (2018) and *Espacio Tomado*, Lima, Peru (2017). His work has also been exhibited internationally in group shows, including *Interrogating Systems* at the Cisneros Fontanals Foundation, Miami, USA (2008). Valdés was awarded a John Moores Painting Prize in 2023, and will be included in the exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool 2023-24.

Event:

Private view
22 August, 2023
6 - 8pm

Press:

Alexia Menikou
am@alexiamenikou.com

Enquiries:

Dom Christie
dom@ceciliabrunsonprojects.com