

cecilia brunson projects

Francisco Valdés (b. 1968, Santiago, Chile)

Receiving his artistic training in Santiago, Chile and at Jan van Eyck Academie, Post-Academic Program, Maastricht, Netherlands in addition to Goldsmiths, London, where he now lives and works. Francisco Valdés has developed a singular painting style that is technically exact, theoretically rich and deeply conceptual. Valdés's paintings anticipate the very materiality of viewers' bodies as they move through space, their perception varying according to physical relation – disorienting, abstract and vibrating at angles, sumptuously tactile up close and finally crystallising into high realism at a distance.

They owe much to the Pop Art practices of artists such as Sigmar Polke, who meticulously, fallibly recreated the mechanical processes of mass media printing and whose meditations on the truth and reproduction of the image formed a poignant reflection on the collective psychology of post-war Germany. Similarly, the country of Valdés's formative years as an artist was still reeling from almost two decades of authoritarianism. He works in the legacy of those artists who developed a highly coded, hermetic conceptual language to escape detection in Chile, where access to visual culture was distorted, delayed, or ideologically filtered. In his kinship with post-war artists such as Polke, Valdés reveals instinctive artistic urges that continue to resonate through the tumults of global politics, reminding us that images – systems of communication, memory and resistance – are never neutral.

Working from found photographs, Valdés plays on our reliance on sight: the faith, deception and failure associated with the notion of perceiving and capturing a truthful image. Frequently embracing synaesthetic cues from his subject matter, he exposes the duality of the image as both relic of a vanished instant and something insistently alive, allowing the artwork to be an active, everlasting encounter with the present moment.

In 2024, Valdés was awarded as a finalist in the 2024 John Moores Painting Prize. His work is held in public collections including Museu de Arte do Rio (MAR), Rio de Janeiro, Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation (CIFO), Miami, and the Misol Foundation, Colombia. Cecilia Brunson Projects presented his inaugural exhibition at the gallery in 2023, as well as his recent show, *Francisco Valdés: Artificial*, in February 2026 which coincided with a solo exhibition at the Florence Trust, London.

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Francisco Valdés

Born in 1968 in Santiago, Chile

Lives and works in London, UK

Education

2003-05 Jan van Eyck Academie, Post-Academic Program, Maastricht, Netherlands

1998-99 MA Fine Art, Goldsmiths, University of London, UK

1988-92 Licentiate Fine Art, School of Art, Catholic University, Chile

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2026 *Sun Tracks*, The Florence Trust, London, UK

2026 *Francisco Valdés: Artificial*, Cecilia Brunson Projects, London, UK

2023 *Manual*, Cecilia Brunson Projects, London, UK

2021 *PAGES*, Venue MOT, London, UK

2018 *Fantasma Escandinavo e Outras Pinturas*, Adelina Galeria, São Paulo, Brasil

2018 *Espacio Tomado*, IK Projects, Lima, Peru

2017 *Sophisticated Happening*, Excelsior Works, London, UK

2014 *Tempera*, Galeria Gabriela Mistral, Santiago, Chile

2013 *Open*, Guild House, London, UK

2012 *Forecast*, Elaine Lévy Project, Brussels, Belgium

2010 Gyonggi Creation Center, Gyonggi Museum of Modern Art, Seongam Island, South Korea

cecilia brunson projects

2009 *From Europe to Asia and back, again. Living in a suitcase*, curated by Jérôme Sans, Lukas Feichtner Galerie, Vienna, Austria

2009 *Mirage*, Jacob Karpio Galerie, San José, Costa Rica

2009 *Age of Anxiety*, Volta, New York, US

2008 *Wasted*, Elaine Lévy Project, Brussels, Belgium

2008 *Trabajo Perdido*, Centro Cultural Matucana 100, Santiago, Chile

2006 *No Compromise*, Elaine Lévy Project, Brussels, Belgium

2003 Galeria Animal, Santiago, Chile

2003 Galeria Bellas Artes, Santiago, Chile

Selected Group Exhibitions

2023-24 *John Moores Painting Prize*, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK

2022 *Light*, Aora VI (virtual exhibition)

2019 *Cuaderno de Matemáticas*, Molino, Santiago, Chile

2016 *BEEP Wales International Painting Prize*, Swansea College of Art, Swansea, UK

2012 *New Works : Francisco Valdés and William Horner*, AHF, London, UK

2012 *Anniversary*, Jacob Karpio Gallery, San José, Costa Rica

2011 *Chile arte extremo*, Corporación Cultural de las Condes, Santiago, Chile

2010 *Franco/Valdés*, D21, Santiago, Chile

2010 *Book of Brilliant Things*, Elaine Lévy Project, Brussels, Belgium

2010 *Sin Titulo*, M100, Santiago, Chile

cecilia brunson projects

2009 *Film as Subversive Art*, commissioned by LUX for Zoo Art Fair, London, UK

2009 Gyonggi Creation Center, Gyonggi Museum of Modern Art, Seongam Island, South Korea

2009 *SOS 48*, curated by Jota Castro, Murcia, Spain

2009 *Gam/Dong Project*, curated by Heywon Lee and Hyun Jung, SABUK-GOHAN, South Korea

2008 *Interrogating Systems*, Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation (CIFO), Miami, Florida, US

2006 *Proposal for Dangiinri Art Plant*, curated by Young-In Hong, SSAMZIE Space, Seoul, South Korea

2006 *FUKT The Animation Issue*, Berliner Kunstsalon, Berlin, Germany; Torpedo Kunstbokhandel, Oslo, Norway; GALLERI 54, Gothenburg, Sweden

2006 *Independent Drawing Gig Vol.2*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Skopje, North Macedonia

2006 *Multiplication*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Santiago, Chile

2006 *Constant Disturbance: On Cultural Contamination and Foreign Agents*, curated by Gean Moreno, CCE, Miami, Florida, US

2006 *Fantasmic*, Museo de Artes Visuales, Santiago, Chile

2005 Centro Cultural Borges, Buenos Aires, Argentina

2005 *Strangely Familiar*, AR/GE Kunst Galerie Museum, Bolzano, Italy

2004 Jan van Eyck Academie, Maastricht, Netherlands

2004 *Fantasmic*, Millenium Museum, Beijing, China; Esplanade, Singapore; National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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2004 *Produciendo Realidad*, Fondazione Prometeo, Lucca, Italy

Selected Awards

2023 John Moores Painting Prize (finalist), Liverpool, UK

2008 CIFO Grant, Miami, Florida, USA

2003 Jan van Eyck Award, Maastricht, Netherlands

2002 Andes Foundation Award, Santiago, Chile

Residencies

2009 Gyonggi Creation Center Residency, Seongam Island, South Korea

Selected Public Collections

Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation (CIFO), Miami, Florida, US

Museu de Arte do Rio (MAR), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Misol Foundation, Colombia