

Francisco Valdés (b. 1968, Santiago, Chile)

Receiving his artistic training in Santiago, Chile and at 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. His forthcoming solo exhibition at the gallery will open in February 2026, coinciding with a solo exhibition at the Florence Trust, London.

This document was updated on 26 November, 2025. For reference only and not for purposes of publication.
For more information, please contact the gallery

Francisco Valdés

b. 1968, 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 The Florence Trust, London, UK (forthcoming)

2026 Cecilia Brunson Projects, London, UK (forthcoming)

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

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 Título*, M100, Santiago, Chile
- 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 Danginri 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
- 2004 *Produciendo Realidad*, Fondazione Prometeo, Lucca, Italy

Selected awards and residencies

- 2023 John Moores Painting Prize (finalist), Liverpool, UK
- 2009 Gyonggi Creation Center Residency, Seongam Island, South Korea
- 2008 CIFO Grant, Miami, Florida, USA
- 2003 Jan van Eyck Award, Maastricht, Netherlands
- 2002 Andes Foundation Award, Santiago, Chile

Selected public collections

Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation (CIFO), Miami, Florida, US
Museu de Arte do Rio (MAR), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Misol Foundation, Colombia