



Kasper Kovitz, Carnalitos [Sabino Arana & Miguel de Unamuno], 2010 | Courtesy Steinle Contemporary

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Kasper Kovitz | ARCO Madrid 2011

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We are pleased to present Kasper Kovitz' new series of work at ARCO Madrid, which he produced during his three months of residency at BilbaoArte in 2010:

Conquistadores [painted in ox blood/sangre de buey]
and Carnalitos [carved out of Jamón Ibérico].

Kasper Kovitz (b.1968) is an Austrian artist working in the United States for the last decade. His work uses the visceral aspects of non-traditional materials to look at iconic imagery of borders, violence and identity. Since 1999 he has been assembling these narrative fragments into a super installation of 670 pieces. Recent exhibitions include Sunset: Delayed [collaboration with Andrea Lenardin] at the MAK in Vienna, solo shows in Los Angeles and Munich and inclusion in the first International Roaming Biennial of Tehran.

Kasper Kovitz | Conquistadores & Carnalitos | ARCO Madrid 2011

Kasper Kovitz: "There is a color that Basques used to paint their houses with, rouge Basque, that originally was made out of cattle blood. This was my inspiration for painting in blood. When I started working on images of the Conquistadores coming on land and encountering the Natives, I decided to use "exotic fruit juice mix" for the Natives.

The fruit juice was so faint at first that I had to paint them over and over again to make them visible at all. This circumstance and having to make the decision if the landscape should be painted in fruit juice or already in ox blood, of the same property as the Conquistadores, made for a strange feeling while painting them. I also made "Carnalitos", two sculptures of Miguel de Unamuno and Sabino Arana carved of legs of jamón ibérico. These two Basque characters stood on two opposing political sides: moderation and nationalism. Carnalitos is an expression in Spanish for close friends as in "of the same blood".

Los vascos solían pintar las casas de un color rojo muy oscuro, que originalmente se elaboraba con sangre bovina.

Cuando empecé a trabajar con imágenes de los conquistadores tomando tierra y encontrándose con los nativos, decidí utilizar zumo de varias frutas exóticas para pintar a los nativos. El zumo de frutas apenas era perceptible al principio, por lo que tenía que pintarlos una y otra vez para hacerlos totalmente visibles.

Esta circunstancia y el hecho de tener que tomar la decisión de si el paisaje se debiera pintar con zumo de fruta o con sangre de buey, al igual que los conquistadores, me produjeron una extraña sensación mientras los pintaba.

Realicé también "Carnalitos", dos esculturas de Miguel de Unamuno y Sabino Arana esculpidas en jamón ibérico. Pese a que estos dos vascos estaban posicionados en dos partidos políticos opuestos (moderado y nacionalista), carnalitos es una expresión española que designa a los amigos íntimos, como de la misma sangre. KK, 2010



Kasper Kovitz, Parime, 2010

Parime [galleons], 59 x 79,5 cm, ox blood on paper / Parime [Akillare], 34 x 54 cm &

Parime [de Soto], 57,6 x 76,8 cm, ox blood and exotic fruit juices on paper