

## CRISTIN TIERNEY

*Jorge Tacla: Sign of Abandonment*  
November 2nd – December 16th, 2017  
Opening Reception: Thursday, November 2nd, 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Cristin Tierney Gallery is pleased to present *Sign of Abandonment*, an exhibition of new paintings by **Jorge Tacla**. It opens with a reception on Thursday, November 2nd from 6:00 to 8:00pm, and closes December 16th. *Sign of Abandonment* precedes a major survey of the artist's work at Fundación Corpartes, opening November 21st in Santiago, Chile.



Tacla's new series of paintings continue the artist's decades-long exploration of the invisible structures and systems at work in society. Like other recent works, they feature heavily impastoed, expressionistic surfaces wrought in oil and cold wax, and limited palettes of grey, blue, and red. Also similar are the artist's subjects: buildings and real places, distilled from Tacla's memory as well as his vast archives of images from photo albums, books, magazines, and the Internet. But whereas previous series often presented deteriorating or destroyed spaces to the viewer, the architecture featured in *Sign of Abandonment* remains seemingly intact.

This shift in depiction is key. Instead of urban ruins and rubble, the artist presents extant museums, libraries, and universities from all over the world. The political significance of these sites, which have traditionally functioned as centers of learning and as repositories of knowledge, is undeniable in the current era of alternative facts and moral relativism. By prominently featuring them in *Sign of Abandonment*, Tacla echoes the widely held belief that history's lessons hold the secret to our future failures or successes.

The painting *Señal de Abandono 22* (or *Sign of Abandonment 22*) illustrates the Trinity College Library in Dublin. Home to almost 200,000 rare and significant books, including the Book of Kells and a copy of the 1916 Proclamation of the Irish Republic, the Trinity Library is a valuable historic site. However, Tacla presents it as empty aside from the books—an allusion to the fact that spaces such as these are rapidly disappearing, moving away from their original missions, or growing increasingly devoid of patrons and visitors with the advent of the Internet. It has become a scene of abandonment. Presented together in a group, Tacla's new series may be seen as a warning, and a call to remember our history before it is too late.

Tacla's upcoming survey at Fundación Corpartes will showcase several never-before-seen paintings from the *Sign of Abandonment* series alongside some of the artist's earliest canvases from the 1980s and 1990s. Entitled *Todo lo sólido se desvanece* (or

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“All that is solid melts into air”), the exhibition is organized by curator and critic Christian Viveros-Fauné. A catalog will be published to accompany the show.

Jorge Tacla (b. 1958, Santiago, Chile) creates tactile, ghost-like paintings that blur the formalistic boundaries between abstraction and representation to present an unsettling view of the world. After studying at the Escuela de Bellas Artes, Universidad de Chile, he moved to New York in the 1980s. His work has been shown in respected institutions across the world, and select exhibitions include the Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos (Santiago, Chile), Art Museum of the Americas (Washington, DC), Tufts University Art Gallery (Medford, MA), Bruce Museum (Greenwich, CT), 55th Venice Biennale, Dublin Contemporary (Dublin, Ireland), and Sharjah Biennial 10 (Sharjah, UAE). Tacla’s work is represented in numerous collections including the New Museum (New York, NY), High Museum of Art (Atlanta, GA), Museo de Arte Moderno (Mexico City, Mexico), and Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (Santiago, Chile). Among the artist’s many awards and fellowships is the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center residency and the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. A solo show of the artist’s works on paper opens December 2nd at Galería Animal in Santiago, Chile. Tacla lives and works in New York and Chile.

For more information please contact Candace Moeller at [candace@crisintierney.com](mailto:candace@crisintierney.com) or +1.212.594.0550.

Image: Jorge Tacla, *Señal de Abandono 22*, 2017. oil and cold wax on canvas. 80 x 80 inches (203 x 203 cm). Courtesy the artist and Cristin Tierney Gallery, New York.