



Jorge Tacla, *Hidden Identity 69*, 2014. oil and cold wax on canvas. 57 x 63 inches (144.78 x 160.02 cm).

Jorge Tacla: *Hidden Identities*

May 21 – July 2, 2015

Opening: May 21, 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Cristin Tierney Gallery is pleased to present *Hidden Identities*, a solo exhibition of paintings and drawings by **Jorge Tacla**. This exhibition will open with a reception on Thursday, May 21 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, and the artist will be present. *Hidden Identities* is the artist's second solo show with the gallery, and it will remain on view through July 2, 2015. Included in the exhibition is a selection of works from Tacla's recent museum exhibition at the Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos in Santiago, Chile.

Hidden Identities features a range of works from this ongoing series. With surfaces laden with wax and manipulated by brush and paint, Tacla's paintings possess a tactile and sensuous materiality. The notebook drawings, on the other hand, are composed of sharp, decisive graphite marks and burned paper, and have a diaristic quality. According to the artist, "In the creative process there is no easy

CRISTIN TIERNEY

transition from the theoretical to the image itself. What one can see on the canvases are the traumas and insanity of the human condition. The materiality of these works refers to our own matter and the making of this skin, worked with cold wax, resulting in a sensitive and vulnerable place confronted with psychological and physical aggressions.”

As suggested by the title *Hidden Identities*, Tacla’s works explore the complexity and, at times, contradictory nature of the human condition. In *Identidad Oculta 69*, for example, the viewer is subsumed in a chaotic, psychologically inflected landscape marked by strong diagonals, dramatic pockets of light and shadow, and an expanse of rubble that blurs, bleeds and shifts at its edges. Tacla’s works focus on central and universal themes: the mutability of identity, collective memory, and the physical and psychological effects of trauma. Although many of the images in *Hidden Identities* are fragmented, falling apart, or completely destroyed, within each is the potential to rebuilt and start again. Tacla illuminates the variability of identity for victim and aggressor—an agent who is disassociated from his or her own identity—and the complexity of the assessment of guilt. These critical issues, and their situation in the larger, collective human experience, are the defining theoretical inquiries of Tacla’s *oeuvre*.

In 2013, Tacla completed a residency at the Rockefeller Foundation Center in Bellagio, Italy, where he continued to develop the *Hidden Identities* body of work. A catalogue was later produced for his solo show of this series at the Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos in Santiago, Chile. *Hidden Identities* will travel to the Art Museum of the Americas in Washington, D.C. in fall 2015.

Jorge Tacla studied at the Escuela de Bellas Artes, Universidad de Chile in Santiago and moved to New York in 1981. Since then, his paintings have been exhibited in museums, biennials and galleries throughout the world, including the Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos (Santiago, Chile), the *Emergency Pavilion* at the 55th Biennale di Venezia (Venice, Italy), Dublin Contemporary (Dublin, Ireland), Sharjah Biennial 10 (Sharjah, United Arab Emirates), the 798 Biennale (Beijing, China), Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (Santiago, Chile), Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (Buenos Aires, Argentina), Museo de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico), the High Museum of Art (Atlanta, GA), and the Milwaukee Art Museum (Milwaukee, WI). The artist’s work is included in many esteemed public collections, including the New Museum (New York, NY), Deutsche Bank (New York, NY), the High Museum of Art (Atlanta, GA), the Milwaukee Art Museum (Milwaukee, WI), the Archer M. Huntington Art Gallery (now the Blanton Museum of Art), University of Texas (Austin, TX), Museo Berardo (Lisbon, Portugal), Walker Hill Art Center (Seoul, South Korea), the Museo de Arte Moderno (Mexico City, Mexico), and the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (Santiago, Chile).

For any inquiries please contact Candace Moeller at 212.594.0550 or candace@crisintierney.com.