

# DIEGO BEYRÓ

## Expresiones

06 MAR - 11 APR 2009

3+1 CONTEMPORARY ART presents for the first time in Portugal the work of the young Argentine artist Diego Beyró.

Born in 1984 in Buenos Aires, Diego studied Fine Arts at IUNA (*Instituto Universitário Nacional del Arte*) and Art Direction at the *Escuela Superior de Creativos Publicitarios*. Professionally, Beyró worked as an art director for the advertising agency *El Cielo de Agulla & Baccetti*.

Currently he is in residence at F A B R I C A, the communication research center of the Benetton Group in Italy, where he develops his work as a visual artist and designer.

The exhibition *Expresiones* (*Expressions*) brings together a body of work devoted to the face and its ability to convey emotions. Using painting as drawing, without the use of color, the artist explores the immediate of the photographic snapshot in portraits that occupies almost the entire pictorial surface.

The works are divided in two sets, each one corresponding to a stage of life: childhood and youth. To these stages the artist associates what he considers to be its maximum expression - "the cry" and the "orgasm" - that, although different in their direct cause, converge to the same root: the vital energy.

The act of screaming becomes the symbol of authenticity, lack of social constraints and the pure expression of desire characteristics of childhood. Several portraits of girls and boys explode on paper, an explosion that corresponds to the imaginable sound of the scream that they issue at the moment of their representation.

On the other side, the sexual ecstasy represents the desire, the discovery of the self and the other, the intensity of the experience inherent of youth. The artist portrays men and women at the time of orgasm, without revealing the sexual act that leads to it. The reference to the sex is done by the surface used for the painting: a sheet.

So, these images get a status of "super-index" in which the evidence of the event unfolds in the materiality that could have sheltered it. As if the intensity of that moment could print, through any chemical phenomenon, its expression in the space-time that it happens.

The works of Diego Beyró are part of that same pure and instinctive energy that they intend to represent, transmitting to the viewer a true liberating impulse.

Rita Sobreiro, Lisbon, February 2009