

# PALMADOTZE

DAVID MOCHA –“Paradise”

19th march - 8th may 2022

Next 19th of March the central space of the gallery will host for the first time the work of the Tarragona photographer David Mocha. Paraíso (Paradise) is the title of the project he will present on this occasion.

Interested in the possibilities of documentary language, David Mocha uses images of the real world to construct subjective and fictional territories. Particularly interested in the relationships between territory, freedom and power, his photographs reflect on the processes of construction and representation of the contemporary landscape.

In this exhibition we present his project El Paraíso (Paradise), a work produced with a naturalistic documentary style which, at first glance, deals with a certain garden inhabited by peculiar characters who pose with a subtle and enigmatic attitude of staging. Playing with this idea, Mocha decided to use different gardens in Madrid, the city where he was living while he was making it, as a visual and argumental background for this work. His idea was to generate an abstract garden (in terms of its identification), a universal garden, in which he could develop his argumentative approach to the true meaning of the concept of "paradise".

As Mocha states: In the most varied traditions and throughout the centuries, gardens have represented the idea of paradise: the myth of an ideal place, a place apart, out of violence, knowledge and consciousness.

The idea of paradise has traditionally been represented through gardens, beautiful places where we are promised eternal bliss, an all too perfect ideal territory that hides in its form a will to dominate. It is an enclosed place from which one cannot leave, governed by certain rules that cannot be transgressed. The garden is a utopian and unreal space, a symbol of the deceptive and the artificial, where man selects, subdues and orders a nature that he has created to his own specifications.

Paradise is a partial and illusory view of reality, in which the garden becomes a strange and oppressive enclosure that freezes and traps everything in it. The photograph fragments and deforms the whole of the garden to represent it as a closed world, a hortus conclusus where its inhabitants wander aimlessly through an immobile space in which time does not pass, lost in the search for paradise.

David Mocha is a Higher Technician in Fine Arts and Design specialising in Artistic Photography and holds a MASTER's degree in Fine Art Photography and Professional Projects from the LENS School of Visual Arts in Madrid. He has completed his training with workshops with artists such as Joan Fontcuberta, Martin Parr, Mark Steinmetz, Robert Lyons and Rob Hornstra, among others. David has been a teacher in the Expert Degree in Contemporary Photography and Author Projects at the University of Alicante and collaborates regularly with public and private schools, such as the LENS School of Visual Arts in Madrid, the Escola d'Art i Disseny de Reus, the MISTOS School in Alicante, the University of Alicante, Centro 14 of the Alicante City Council or the Youth Council of Sant Vicent del Raspeig. His artistic work has received various awards and grants, including the FotoPres la Caixa award for his work Bonavista, a series that has recently been acquired by the Col·lecció Nacional de Fotografia de la Generalitat de Catalunya, and whose publication of the same name was a finalist for best photobook at Les Rencontres d'Arles. His work El Paraíso was exhibited at Centro Cibeles in Madrid and forms part of the group exhibition and publication "[Un cierto panorama] ...reciente fotografía de autor en España". His solo and group exhibitions have been shown at events such as the SCAN International Photography Festival, Outono Fotográfico, Festival Internacional PhotoAlicante and venues such as CaixaForum Madrid and Barcelona, Fundació Canal and Fundació Forvm in Tarragona.