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Phantom of Liberty

Riccardo Paratore

Phantom of Liberty comprises a new series of works made in Mexico. This is Paratore's first show in Latin America.

Before coming to Mexico I rewatched some movies that inspired me in my teenage years. One of them "Phantom of Liberty" by Luis Buñuel still remains inaccessible. Back then I might have been more impressed by the pretentious chaos which does nothing else than replicating the directors personal dreams and nightmares.

It seems very right that in most cases I've paid the double, triple or even more for objects at markets here in Mexico City. In a way there's some beautiful justice in being "ripped off" here as foreigner especially when the money you're using belongs to the local upper class.

I've been painting objects since a few years now ranging from different topics but only recently I started to acknowledge that I've come back to a quite formalist approach which still touches in some ways socio-economical topics without being too dialectic.

Giorgio Morandi the Italian still life painter painted the actual objects he would portray in his meticulously boring paintings. As if he had to eliminate all life left in each of these objects.

— Riccardo Paratore