



ISABEL CROXATTO

GALERÍA

## PRESS RELEASE

### ISABEL CROXATTO GALERÍA PRESENTS *SWEETER THAN ROSES*, SOLO EXHIBITION BY ARTIST VÍCTOR CASTILLO

**Isabel Croxatto Galería**, international contemporary art platform based in Santiago, Chile, presents *Sweeter than Roses*, solo exhibition by the Chilean artist based in Los Angeles, California, **Víctor Castillo**. The exhibition features 12 black and white photographs of pin-up models from the 1960s and 1970s, which have been delicately intervened by the artist and are part of his extensive and varied personal collection of images. The exhibition can be seen on-site at the gallery's space in Santiago starting on 17 March, by appointment and limited capacity.

Continuing with its hybrid programme combining the virtual and the physical, developed following the new context of the pandemic, Isabel Croxatto Galería presents *Sweeter than Roses*, exhibition by artist Víctor Castillo that will be on view on-site simultaneously with the extension of its current virtual show, *CUIR*, curated by Chiachio & Giannone.

In *Sweeter than Roses*, Víctor Castillo is inspired by the song of the same name by the English composer **Henry Purcell** (1659-1695), which created an intimate and romantic atmosphere for the artist to delicately intervene, with acrylic and ink, the “photographic skin” of pin-up models –such as **Virginia Rogers**, **Karen Mourning** and **Shawn Devereaux**– present in a collection of 12 photographs by prominent photographers of the 1960s and 1970s, such as **Ron Vogel** and **Fred Enke**, which the artist has compiled over the years. In them, the artist depicts, in the form of tattoos, his emblematic characters and aesthetics, citing his own work as well as revisiting sketches that had never been used before. The work pays tribute to the carefree and natural, resignifying the eroticism of the time through the duality between the sensual and the romantic, desire and tenderness.

The extended periods of the confinement in his residence and studio in Los Angeles (CA) amid the pandemic were the ideal space and time for the artist to explore, in the fashion of a Fellini film, memories of his childhood, among them the first innocent encounters with provocative images of female bodies in the magazines at the corner kiosk, or the calendars on the walls of the grocery store or the mechanic's workshop. It's in this setting that Víctor Castillo once again allows himself to experiment with the freedom of a gifted drawer, painter and graffiti artist, on media that transcend the canvas and the wall, repurposing found materials such as banknotes, prints, posters and, in the case of *Sweeter than Roses*, old photographs that the artist collects.



About the work, Víctor Castillo comments: “I’m interested in creating a space where you can relive a bit of that nostalgia for the ‘golden age of illustration’ through my work. These images, which in the past were erotic or pornographic, nowadays I see them almost in a sculptural way; they remind me of that fascination for the complicity of the first desire for another body. Furthermore, I have kept a folder with a large archive for years, where I store sketches of unexecuted paintings, drawings that I have never finished, previously discarded designs that I maintain at hand and that have not come to light before, which I have used today to intervene these images.”

Together with the original artworks that comprise *Sweeter than Roses*, a **deluxe, limited, signed and numbered edition of 50 box sets** have been produced containing the 12 images of the collection, printed with archival ink on Photo Baryta 340 gr 100% cotton paper, manufactured in the workshops of Digital Gravura in Santiago.

In addition, Isabel Croxatto Galería will publish a **bilingual catalogue** of the exhibition inspired by the pin-up calendars of the period, featuring reviews of the models and photographers who created the original images, along with a text written especially for it by the American editor **Dian Hanson**, Sexy Book Editor at Taschen. The catalogue, designed by Estudio Cinco, will have a limited print run of 100 numbered copies and will be launched during the opening of the exhibition. Both the catalogues and the deluxe edition of the works will be available for purchase at the gallery and through the online shop at [isabelcroxattogaleria.com](http://isabelcroxattogaleria.com)

*Sweeter than Roses* is Víctor Castillo’s fourth solo exhibition with Isabel Croxatto Galería in Santiago and follows his participation with special projects in prestigious art fairs in Hong Kong and Turkey. His previous show at the gallery, *The Invisible Cage*, presented between November 2018 and January 2019, earned him recognition as Artist of the Year in 2019 by ED Magazine. In 2020, Víctor Castillo was one of the eleven finalists for the MAVI Fundación Actual Fellowship. In the coming weeks, he will open his exhibition *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* at Hel Mel Studios, renowned actor Val Kilmer’s art gallery in Hollywood, which will coincide with the publication of a monograph on his work.

*Sweeter than Roses* by Víctor Castillo will be open from 17 March to 21 April on view at **Isabel Croxatto Galería**, by appointment only and with limited capacity.

To schedule visits, please email [contacto@isabelcroxattogaleria.com](mailto:contacto@isabelcroxattogaleria.com)

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**SWEETER THAN ROSES | VÍCTOR CASTILLO**

ISABEL CROXATTO GALERÍA

17 March – 21 April | 2021

**ISABEL CROXATTO GALERÍA**

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PREVIEW | [ARTSY](#)

Víctor Castillo is a visual artist, with studies at the School of Art and Visual Culture of the Universidad de Arte y Ciencias Sociales ARCIS, and at the School of Art of the Universidad Católica de Chile.

He began drawing obsessively at the age of five, inspired by the cartoons he saw on television, science fiction films, and the album covers present in his home, especially Pink Floyd's *The Wall*.

After attending art schools, and disappointed with the academy, he began to take part in independent collectives in Santiago that were closer to experimental art, creating installations that combined sculpture and video.

In 2004, the artist decided to emigrate to Barcelona, where he established his distinctive aesthetic, with references to comics, American animation from the 1950s and graffiti. Inspired after seeing Francisco Goya's *Black Paintings* on a visit to the Museo del Prado, he began to incorporate elements of classical painting into his work. Working with the legendary Iguapop gallery, until its closure in 2010, he began to exhibit internationally with great success in museums, galleries and fairs around the world.

Victor Castillo's work stands out for its ability to communicate directly with the viewer, using allegories and metaphors that ironically criticise the capitalist system and the current western way of life, exploring a variety of techniques in painting, drawing, collage and muralism.

His work has been presented in important venues in Chile, such as the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Museo de Arte Moderno de Chiloé and Sala Gasco, among others; Argentina, Peru, Colombia, Mexico, the United States, Canada, Spain, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Denmark, Turkey, Hong Kong, Japan and Australia, as well as in numerous publications around the world. He has also created large-scale murals for the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes and Centro Cultural Gabriela Mistral in Santiago, the Centre de Cultura Contemporània in Barcelona, and The SOFA Collection and Hush Hostel Lounge hotels in Istanbul, among others.

In 2018 his short documentary *Hollywood Dreams*, produced by Loica Films, was released worldwide.

Víctor Castillo lives and works in Los Angeles, USA.





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Isabel Croatto Galería, international art platform, was founded in 2012 as a space of excellence focused on emerging and established artists with national and international recognition.

The gallery centers its endeavours on presenting and promoting contemporary art from the south of the world, boosting the work of artists in Chile and abroad, contributing to the renovation of ways of art collecting, and breaking into new markets for contemporary art in collaboration with artists, curators, collectors, and public and private institutions.

Its program of audience development encourages the dialogue between the spectator and the artwork on a personal scale and in a welcoming environment, creating links and a close approach to the contemporary practices of its artists. Along with its annual program of solo exhibitions, the gallery holds group shows through collaborative curatorships, creating crossovers between art and context. In addition, it takes part in renowned international contemporary art fairs, such as Art Central Hong Kong and Contemporary Istanbul, fostering innovative and avant-garde projects through global promotion. In 2020, **ICG+** is added to its portfolio, a virtual exhibition space developed to host a program of exhibitions specially designed for an online experience, taking the work of its artists to every corner of the planet.

The artists' searches that Isabel Croatto Galería's curatorial project conveys revolve around contemporary problems of the human condition, from the intimate and social body, from memory and archive, from the analogue and the digital. Inspired by figurative art, each of them, through a variety of media, aesthetically proposes unique and challenging enquiries and responses that invite us to reflect on the times we live in.

Winner of the Best Exhibition Prize | Gallery Weekend Santiago 2018

Isabel Croatto Galería is a member of **AGAC**, Association of Contemporary Art Galleries of Chile, and is sponsored by **SÍSMICA**, sector brand for the Chilean visual arts, and **ProChile**, agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Chile for the promotion of Chilean industries abroad.

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