

Pepe Buitrago

“Variables Ocultas: de lo plegado a lo desplegado”

Opening show: 4 October 2006

Pepe Buitrago is a plastic and visual artist who works using the holography technique, not very well-known as yet and even less experimented with in the art world.

Buitrago's work has developed in an ongoing dialogue among technique, the making and the intuitive reflection. This reflection has implied to defy our culture, the masculinity-femininity, reality-unreality, the language of media, economic control, sexuality — they are recurring topics in his daily activity that, although not always explicit in his work, are hidden in his formal elements. As Alicia Murriá pointed out: 'Surface, space, language, seeing, representation — these are the cruces of Jose Buitrago's work, works that unfold themselves, which offer traps for the unwary, which offer resistance to being read, which simultaneously reveal themselves and conceal themselves — works which question the appearance of reality and manage to convey it with all the more intensity through hiding it. This work talks about the less-well-illuminated areas of our consciousness offering dizzying perspectives of fleeing, escaping, drifting... these constitute a framework open to endless readings.'

Although Buitrago, in his work, uses the hologram as just another material, it is a complex element loaded with meaning. It can be said that the way in which he uses the holography, apart from having a plastic and even aesthetic approach, has a discursive significance that makes it rather an active tool than an inert referential resource.

'A tearing in the surface of the work (...) reveals holograms serving as looking glasses to integrate the viewer, adding a third dimension. Floating words, texts, cryptic sentences, free of any absolute or literal meaning. Transmuted into signs and symbols, they lead us to question preconceived notions of language. For Buitrago, these texts are merely yet other available material, like earth or metal or painting. Even so, he is aware that each word comes spiked with its own cultural background, acting in the viewer's mind as an emotional trigger' (Sue Hubbard).



Un momento de reflexión
acrílico sobre tela y holograma
120x150 cm. 1999