

BIO

Miguel González Cabezas (1992, Alcalá de Henares (ES)) is a multidisciplinary artist and researcher. He holds an MA in Critical Studies from the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna and a BA in Fine Arts from the USAL, and is currently pursuing a PhD in Philosophy at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna.

His research and multidisciplinary artistic projects revolve around power structures, representation and processes of social transformation.

He has exhibited *Crisis* at USAL Experimental Art Space (2019); *The GRAND TOUR Show*, Kvaka 22, Belgrade, Serbia and *On Artistic / Research*, Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, Austria (2017); *Balkanization*, *Friday Exit*, Vienna, Austria and *Rundgang*, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Austria (2016); *Re-Fill*, KH Messen, Alvik, Norway; *Non Estamos*, Casa de la Cultura de Vigo, Spain, DIY, Göteborgs Konstmuseum, Gothenburg, Sweden (2015); *Abierto Emergentes*, at the Adora Calvo Gallery in Salamanca (2014) and other solo and group exhibitions.

In 2015 he organized the I Congreso de Arte Joven en CyL at the Da2 in Salamanca and participated in the II Encuentro de Artistas en Red in Cacabelos, León.

He has completed a residency at AiR Celia, Celje, Slovenia (2021); a Module-Residency at UNIDEE, Pistoletto Foundation in Biella Italy (2017) and others in the past.

Miguel also published in the book *Border Thinking. Disassembling Histories of Racialized Violence* on the externalization of Europe's southern border and the role of the Spanish state in this process, edited by Marina Gržinić and published by Sternberg Press in 2017.

Education

- 2021- PhD in Philosophy, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Vienna (AT)
2018 MA in Critical Studies, Academy of Fine Arts of Vienna, Vienna (AT)
2014 Fine Arts Degree, University of Salamanca, Salamanca (ES)
- 2015 International Seminar with Alice Creischer, UCM, Madrid (ES)
2015 *XXII Image Symposium - Comparabilities: Relation and Scale*, CA2M, Móstles (ES)
2015 *XXII Image Symposium - Workshop with Erick Beltrán*, CA2M, Móstoles (ES)
2015 Workshop with Artist Kamen Nedev - *Map, Territory, Landscape*. MUSAC, León (ES)
2014 Course: *Curating and Organization of Contemporary Art Exhibitions*, FIART, Madrid (ES)
2011 Course: *Das Bild als Medium, Intermediality in Arts*, Bauhaus Universität, Weimar (DE)
2011 Course: *Visual Arts and Stage in the Digital Times*, DA2, Salamanca (ES)

Solo Exhibitions

- 2019 *Crisis*, Experimental Art Space of the USAL, Salamanca (ES)
2015 *Re-Fill*, KH Messen, Alvik (NO)
2014 *Abierto Emergentes*, Adora Calvo Gallery, Salamanca (ES)
2013 *The Silk Route*, Bayt Lothan (KW)
2011 *Deriva*, Casa Municipal de la Cultura, Ciudad Rodrigo (ES)
2011 *Deriva*, Espacio Joven Salamanca (ES)
2010 *Luces de Locura*, Fundación Germán Sanchez Ruiperez, Salamanca (ES)

Group Exhibitions

- 2021 *OPEN STUDIO SALAMANCA*, DA2, Salamanca (ES)
2017 *The GRAND TOUR Show*, Kvaka 22, Belgrade (RS)
2017 *On Artistic / Research*, Academy of Fine Arts of Vienna (AT)
2016 *Balkanization*, Friday Exit, Vienna (AT)
2016 *Rundgang*, Academy of Fine Arts of Vienna (AT)
2015 *No Estamos*, Casa de la Cultura de Vigo (ES)
2015 *DIY*, Göteborgs Konstmuseum, Gothenburg (SE)
2014 *Visto por 25 La Alóndiga*, Zamora (ES)

Residencies

- 2021 *AiR Celeia*, Celje (SLO)
2017 *Touch, Don't Dominate*, Residency-module UNIDEE, Pistoletto Foundation, Biella (IT)
2016 *Erasmus + for Young Entrepreneurs*, Åle Kommun (SE)
2014 Art House Messen, Alvik (NO)
2014 Konstepidemin, Gothenburg (SE)

Events and Presentations

- 2022 Performance lecture *A Walking Zombie* at the Likovni Salon, Celje (SLO)
2018 Projection of *OMAN #2.004.820* at the Ozawa Lab, Ozawa (JPN)
2018 Workshop *OMAN #2.004.820 a Labour Story* with the students of the Social Science Faculty of the USAL, Salamanca (ES)
2015 Presentation at the III Encuentro de Artistas en Red, M.A.R.C.A. Museum, Cacabelos (ES)
2014 Organisation of the *I Young Artist Congress of Castilla y León*, DA2 Salamanca (ES)

MIGUEL GONZÁLEZ CABEZAS

CURRICULUM VITAE

Publications

2017 *Border Thinking. Disassembling Histories of Racialized Violence*. Marina

Grzinić (Ed.), Sternberg Press

2016 Wespennest 171: *Back to the USSR - 2017*

Collections

Al-Sabah, Kuwait (KW)

Grants

2013-2014 SICUE Grant to Study Fine Arts at the UCM, Madrid (ES)

2012-2013 ERASMUS Grant to Study at the Georg - Simon OHM Hochschule,
Nuremberg (DE)



A Walking Zombie

(2021) Performance-lecture.

The performance-lecture follows the steps of a zombie since its origins until today while focusing on the crossings with colonialism, finance capitalism, protests and pop culture. The zombie appears as a metaphor and a multivalent figure to interrogate political power and examine the forces that shape our lives. 30min (English)

<https://miguelgonzalezcabezas.com/project/a-walking-zombie/>



Stills of the performance-lecture *A Walking Zombie* (2021)

***Pinceladas Invisibles (Invisible Brush Strokes)***

2021, Video 6:53min

Pinceladas Invisibles is a video-essay that reflects on power in the construction of historical narratives. From the legend of "The Slave of Murillo" in Seville, we think about the origins of capitalism, slavery, colonialism and the monsters they produce. The zombie, one of these monsters, gives explanation to a reality that appears irrational. Power is evident in the construction of the stories: who is the actor and who narrates?, who is the person and who is the monster?.

The fragment appears as a fundamental unit in the creation of the narratives: The work combines images taken from the places of slavery, colonialism and the national narrative in Seville, such as Plaza España, the Archivo de Indias, and the steps of the Cathedral; to which are superimposed details found in the margins of the representations that construct the story of "discovery" and religion.

<https://miguelgonzalezcabezas.com/project/pinceladas-invisibles/>



Stills of the video-essay *Pinceladas Invisibles* (2021)

Crisis (2016 - 2019)

This project analyses from art and an anachronistic point of view the relations between neoliberal global capitalism, colonialism and exclusion policies. The works presented can be read in three lines. On one side the transition on sovereignty from the Nation-State to transnational institutions, on the other the modes of life management this capitalism in crisis that is shown in necropolitics, and last on how colonial projects can still be perceived today.



No nos Representan. Representation Critique from Colonialism to Catalonia. (2018)

Digital print (colour) on canvas

2 Diagramms: 80 x 200 cm and 80 x 140 cm

The purpose of this project is to propose a review, from an historical perspective, of the break and continuation of historical narratives from colonial history and capitalism, with its dispossession, to present neoliberal, global context and exclusion politics, focusing on the Spanish context. The title "No nos Representan" (They don't represent us) refers to the main slogan on the 15-M / Indignados Protest, that took place in 2011, against austerity measures and corruption. Protesters established a critique on political representation by proposing more participative ways of organization on the square.

The protest produced a cultural change in Spanish society that allowed questioning historical narratives such as the transition process from dictatorship to democracy, the unity / plurality of the state, and colonialism and its role in the European context, bringing them to the public.

Once the protest dissolved, discomfort was canalized through institutional ways by the creation of Podemos, the start of the independence process in Catalonia and Municipal Unity Candidacies. This institutionalization process is also criticized as it reproduces some of the exclusion modes once criticized.

This project's specificity is complemented by a global context, reflecting on concepts such as crisis and democracy, analyzing the different questions they try to answer and related historical forms and political traditions. It also reflects on ongoing exclusion related to neoliberal global capitalism and citizenship in its biopolitical forms and how the protest in Spain developed, as it relates to forms that appeared simultaneously during the Arab Spring, Occupy movement, Gezi Park, Umbrella Revolution, etc.

Links to the original diagrams:

https://miguelgonzalezcabezas.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/nonosrepresentan_diagramm_13022018150116.pdf

https://miguelgonzalezcabezas.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/nonosrepresentan_diagramm_ext_13022018150058.pdf



"They don't represent us" 15M / INDIGNADOS

Change of Article 135 of the Constitution. The 2nd of September of 2011 PP and PSOE change Article 135 Budgetary Stability of the Constitution, so that the payment of external debt will be a priority in the planning of the General Budget.

Foundation of Podemos 2014. It has a direct impact on the decrease of social mobilizations, as it contributes to institutional ways the discontent.

European Parliament Election 2014. Podemos a party created 2 months earlier reached 5 representatives winning enormously in public opinion. **Appointment of King Juan Carlos I 2014** son, leading a new wave of numerous scandals. **King abdicates in his son,** leading a new wave of the Monarchic Institution and of the 15M within it.

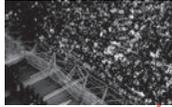


Image of the protest. Ronda de Congreso in 2012

Ley Moragas' (Gag Law) Citizen Security Law 2015 In order to deal social mobilization, the PP government with an absolute majority approved the Citizen Security Law, better known as the 'Gag Law', in which the rights and freedom of citizens are cut, providing the State Security Forces a high degree of discretion. Monetary sanctions of up to € 60,000 were imposed, which created a high degree of fear and stopped the social mobilization that would be conducted through the electoral way thereafter.

Municipal Elections 2015. Popular Unity candidates win over conservative ones in the most populated cities of the country, starting alternative policies to austerity, implementing more participation by the locals, and stopping evictions.

Transition Law / Citizen Security Law 2015 In September 2017 the Parliament of Catalonia approves the Transition Law for the creation of the Republic of Catalonia, to be applied if there is a year in the planned referendum. The law copied and pasted the Immigration Law of the Spanish state changing Spanish nationality for Catalan, reproducing the same acquisition procedures.



Photo of a woman building ballot boxes

Referendum Catalonia 2015 October the first, Catalonia held a referendum for its independence promoted by the Catalan Parliament and prohibited by the Constitutional Court of the Spanish State. The call was strongly repressed by the police and newspapers were repressed by international observers. With a participation of 47%, the result was a clear yes, opening the door to the creation of the new State. After the referendum around 2,000 companies moved the central seat from Catalonia to Spain.

EU

78 REGIME

15-M

PODEMOS

CATALUNYA

Moragas Between 2011 and 2015 massive social mobilizations convince citizens to leave the 15-M movement. They are called 'people's debts' and organize in colour protests against the austerity measures.

15-M PROTEST 2011



Image of an assembly during the 15-M in Cadiz

Start of the Prods 2013 Process in Catalonia. The 11 of September, the National Day of Catalonia is chosen to promote a referendum about the independence. They will concentrate in the streets creating a V of vote.



Image of the Diada 2014

Diada 2014. Again the 11th of September a big concentration takes place in Barcelona to protest for the right to decide in a referendum about the independence. They will concentrate in the streets creating a V of vote.

Spanish General Elections 2015 - 2016 Due to the results and non representation of the right to decide in a referendum about the independence. They will concentrate in the streets creating a V of vote.



Image of the Diada 2015

Diada 2015. The 11th of September a massive protest is held in Barcelona by protest for the right to decide in a referendum about the independence again. Many personalities are invited and the basis for an universal independence declaration is set.



Image of the Diada 2015

Diada 2016. Many political forces organize different acts showing the parity of the movement. Decided to initiate the institutional discussion of the Spanish State.

Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Catalonia 2017 Due to the imminent application of article 155 the President of the Parliament has named a committee for the first time in its history the independence of Catalonia.

Application of Article 155. On October 27th the central government of Spain the Article 155 of the Constitution in order to reinstate the Autonomy of Catalonia and dissolve its Parliament, calling for trials the head representatives of the Process.

PROTEST

SUBJECTIVATION

NO NOS REPRESENTAN

REPRESENTATION CRITIQUE^{1,6,14,16}

Representing protesters

Demands

Claims

Net Images

REPRESENTATION PRACTICES

Communication (language and places)

CORRESPONDANCE IMAGINARY

LEGITIMATION

What can images activate politically?

Representation as mimesis

Mainstream media images

Institutional political discourse

What social movements and activists like the PHM is the representation of wishes, the will to show that there is another way to act against certain problems, and give alternative solutions to the problems created by the crisis.

ORGANIZATION

POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

BEYOND REPRESENTATION

Direct democracy
Autonomy
Not organizationism

REPRESENTATIONAL STRUCTURES

More horizontal institutions
Hegemony
Movement-party

POPULISM

VERTICALITY

Tension

HORIZONTALITY

Rhizomatic

Structures, rules,
Horizontally to institution

Rhizomatic

DEMOCRACY^{4,7,11,14,15,18}

CRISIS

EXCLUSION^{1,2,8,11,21}

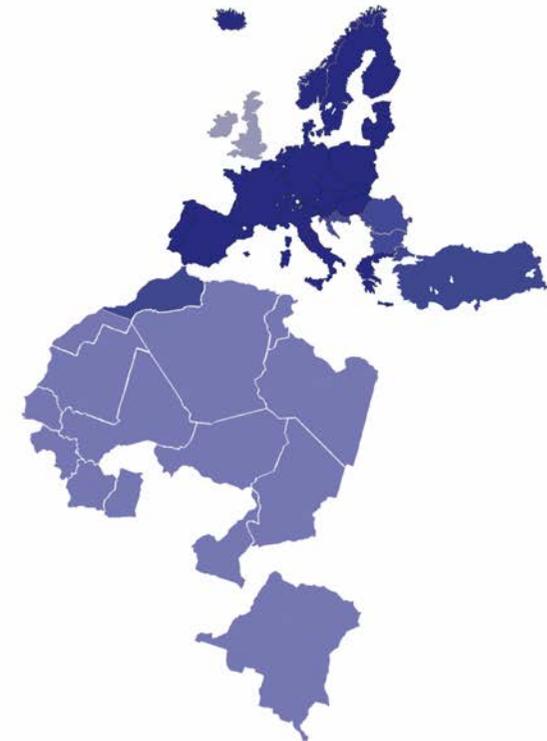
PLUS ULTRA (2017)

Variable measures

Plus Ultra is the national motto of Spain meaning “further beyond”. Since 2006 the Spanish government signed several agreements with governments of countries of Africa, and started a special collaboration with Morocco for the control of the Spanish borders and the European ones within it. This externalization of border control has also been implemented by other countries, such as Italy and the most recent case has been the EU polemical agreement with Turkey. For practical purposes this means that the border control is extended further away than the geographical border, creating a space beyond the juridical control of the European Liberal “Democracies”. But Spain was not only the model for the border externalization; it was also a model for the construction of walls, playing an important role in the fabrication of the fences for other EU countries.

EXTERNALIZACIÓN DE LA FRONTERA SUR

ALGERIA
CAMERÚN
CABO VERDE
CHAD
R.D. CONGO
GHANA
GUINEA
GAMBIA
COSTA DE MAFIL
LIBIA
MALI
MAURITANIA
MARRUECOS
NÍGER
SENEGAL
TUNEZ
TURQUÍA
¿SÁHARA OCCIDENTAL?





How to subvert a Galaxy? (2016)
Flag 100x70cm

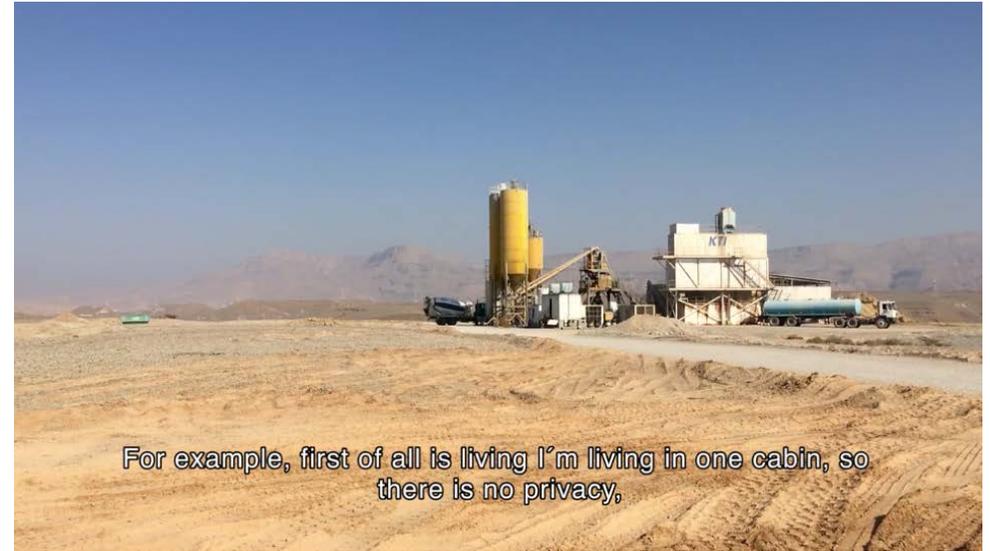
A galaxy is defined as a bound system of stars and other elements that are gravitationally structured. These stars can be also organized in star or planetary systems, which are also gravitational structures but at a smaller scale. All these structures create categories and power relations based on fiscal parameters. If we look carefully at the EU flag we see it is formed by stars organized as a circle keeping the same distance from the centre, that should symbolize equality between member states and democracy. So, making an analogy with the Galaxy that operates with other parameters and categories, creating their own dependent systems, how can we subvert the structure? How to change the power relations, centres and systems? If the Copernican revolution meant a shift in the understanding of centres, how can we change the current system? Do we need centres?

OMAN # 2,004,820

2017 / Film, 13min.

Oman # 2,004,820 is a documentary short film that collects interviews with expat and local workers in the construction field in Sur, Oman. Images of the working areas are shown while the spectator listens to testimonies of workers coming from a wide range of countries, showing the privileges and contradictions in the harsh working conditions. As a counterpoint to the personal stories texts of the Omani Labour Law are shown.

<https://vimeo.com/214486651> Password: bidbidsur





Stills of the film *Oman # 2,004,820* (2017)

mapamundi

2014 / book

mapamundi is a book that investigates the relation between maps and the point of view and ideas that are shown in them. Maps are organized, recombined and opposed to create new interpretations and views on cartography.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/119699925>

