



Von Buren Contemporary presents

REVERBERACIONES

featuring the works of
Leonor Benito de la Lastra
Luis J. Fernández
Juan José Martínez Cánovas

Vernissage
Saturday, April 11 2026
18:00 - 21:30

Presentation text: **Anna Gasperini**
Curated and organised by: **Michele von Büren**

Reverberaciones will remain on show until May 6, 2026

Von Buren Contemporary
Via Giulia 13, 00186 Rome

Von Buren Contemporary is thrilled to present *Reverberaciones*, a group show bringing together the work of three noted Spanish artists: **Leonor Benito de la Lastra**, **Luis J. Fernández** and **Juan José Martínez Cánovas**.

The black-and-white photographs of **Leonor Benito de la Lastra**, which are being shown in Italy for the very first time, possess a powerful poetic impact. Created using analogue techniques as well as experimental chemical processes, these photographs appear as enigmatic fragments, intimate and evocative, and linger in the mind's eye long after one has walked away.

In the still lifes presented by **Luis J. Fernández**, the artist is intent on creating a space for the convergence between image and thought, suggesting a layered reading that juxtaposes vital symbols like flowers with dissonant elements, such as the dark tones that dominate the compositions.

Juan José Martínez Cánovas, meanwhile, uses pencil on paper to upturn the world of classical portraiture with a series of hybrid human-animal figures, generated by the fusion of mythology and reality. These mystical, surreal and sometimes disquieting images are striking not only for their subject matter but also for their draughtsmanship.

Leonor Benito de la Lastra is a prominent Spanish Fine Art photographer whose practice is deeply rooted in the traditions and experimental possibilities of analogue photography. Born in Barcelona in 1962, she holds a degree in Fine Arts from the University of Salamanca with a specialisation in audiovisual design. In a career spanning more than three decades, she has established herself as a master of the darkroom, treating the laboratory not just as a space for development, but as a primary creative tool for artistic intervention.

Benito de la Lastra's work is characterised by black-and-white imagery and the manipulation of chemical processes to heighten themes of memory, loneliness and the passage of time. The artist has played an important role in the Spanish photographic community, notably running El Fotógrafo in Salamanca—a gallery space and bookstore dedicated to photography and associated research. Her excellence has been recognized internationally, including selection for the Magnum Photography Awards and receiving honorary mentions from Life Framer, a platform for the discovery and celebration of contemporary photography.

Luis J. Fernández, born in Blanca, Murcia, in 1974, is a self-taught painter who has chosen formalism as his artistic language. His career began with a period dominated by the representation of symbolic spaces linked to his native environment, which earned him a place at the 2nd Biennial of Contemporary Art in Florence in 1999. In February 2005, he received the Young Artist of the Year Award from the Region of Murcia, and in 2016, the Gold Medal at the Forum Europa in Madrid.

Fernández has made a name for himself principally through images of urban landscapes, creating imaginary cities based on buildings that are symbolic of contemporary civilization. This series has been exhibited in cities across the world including Madrid, Paris, Rome, Dubai, Florence, Shanghai and Miami.

Juan José Martínez Cánovas was born in Murcia in 1980. A graduate of the city's Academy of Fine Arts, he also attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome and holds a Masters in research into contemporary painting materials. His work has been influenced by two great living Spanish artists under whom he has studied: Pedro Cano and Antonio López García. Martínez Cánovas has won numerous awards, exhibited widely in solo and group exhibitions and has works in numerous permanent collections in Spain including museums, universities and public offices.

Martínez Cánovas's fascination with myth, metamorphosis and existential anxiety has shaped his interest in challenging and transforming the traditional portrait genre. His delicately handled graphite drawings on gesso and paper have won wide acclaim for their technical virtuosity.