

BLACKGALLERY

Black Gallery is pleased to announce a new solo exhibition by the Uruguay artist María Freire. Entitled *In Black and White*, this exhibition presents a set of artworks from the 1960's. Curated by **Laura Bardier**, the opening will be on December 28, 2020.

MARIA FREIRE IN BLACK AND WHITE

Dynamic Tension

Let's consider a world where there are no shades, no hues nor colors, only black and white. That is a binary, antagonistic and extremist world, where there are only two options. That is a world of contrast and tension, where there is no compromise. That is the context of this series of black and white works by Maria Freire, where the artist brilliantly shows how much can be expressed in the absence of color.

For centuries, artists have purposely purged color from their work as a way to make it more radical and essential. From Jan Van Eyck, Rembrandt, and Ingres, to Degas, Picasso, Josef Albers, Ellsworth Kelly, and Gerhard Richter, artists have created and recreated monochrome images to enhance their work.

When you have access to all possible shades, the absence of color can be even more shocking or exhilarating. Freire exemplifies how the minimum use of color can achieve maximum impact.

In this series of black and white works, Freire illustrates a maintained balance between opposing forces and elements, expressing a controlled dynamic of dramatic quality. Black and white are in themselves the elements that are

necessary for the work to be considered conformed and complete. This sense of tension is derived by Freire from two concepts used in logic - extension (literal meaning) and intension (metaphorical meaning) - and refers to a mutually dependent relationship between these different forms. Although the existence of both shapes and colors creates a conflict, both are necessary because it is this conflict or tension that gives the work its meaning.

In a dimly lit room with black walls, the light frequencies decrease, and visitors are transported into a monochromatic world, where black and white coexist in a dynamic tension. This is a way of using the energy and movement available in various features of the work to divert attention from the image, in contrasting directions.

Like a rubber band that is pulled in opposite directions, the lines and shapes build great dynamic tension, and anticipate the release of kinetic energy once the rubber band is released. The traction between black and white in Freire's work is seditious, disturbing, and threatening. And it is not so difficult for us to imagine the instability of a world in tension, polarized in black and white, where the only possible resolution is the clash of the opposition.

Laura Bardier

Black Gallery- Pueblo Garzón- Uruguay
Dec. 28 – Jan. 31 2021