

## Clages

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**Juan Pérez Agirregoikoa**

**Western Perfection - Westliche Perfektion**

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*I would define my way of working as an impressionistic, I mean, going outside and drawing, painting and making movies about what happens, or what I see. Disaster, neofascism, and significant masters, leaders who incredibly and incomprehensibly make people work for free.*

Juan Pérez Agirregoikoa in an e-mail (excerpt) to the gallery, July 2024

Perhaps I exaggerate, but I have the feeling that what is happening right now – the stale smell, the nostalgia for a world gone by – is familiar to me from my history lessons. When the West goes through its tautological financial crises, we tend to turn towards the far right. Personally, I don't make that turn – I was using the royal 'we' – but I do acknowledge that I occasionally have unconscious conservative leanings that I have to work against. I've been seeing this rise, this backward tendency, in different ways as a French citizen and Spanish subject. The nuances between a republic and a country, a monarchy restored by a monarchid, where the national bourgeoisie was unable to use spatial forms to escape feudalism as they would have liked, to quote David Harvey. What we see coming, the signals that arrive of the spirit of the time – the nostalgia for order – are not very nice. Like in a tsunami when the waters draw back at first, and you stare in fascinated horror but carry on filming videos or taking photos though you know the mass of water will return as a wave taking everything in its path. And you know you have to run to find a promontory where you won't be carried away or splashed.

[...]

Excerpt from: Juan Pérez Agirregoikoa, "Capitalism is me", 2023