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PAGE TSOU. HIDE-AND-SEEK (EL JUEGO DEL ESCONDITE)
EXHIBITION 28 JUNE – 15 OCT 2017

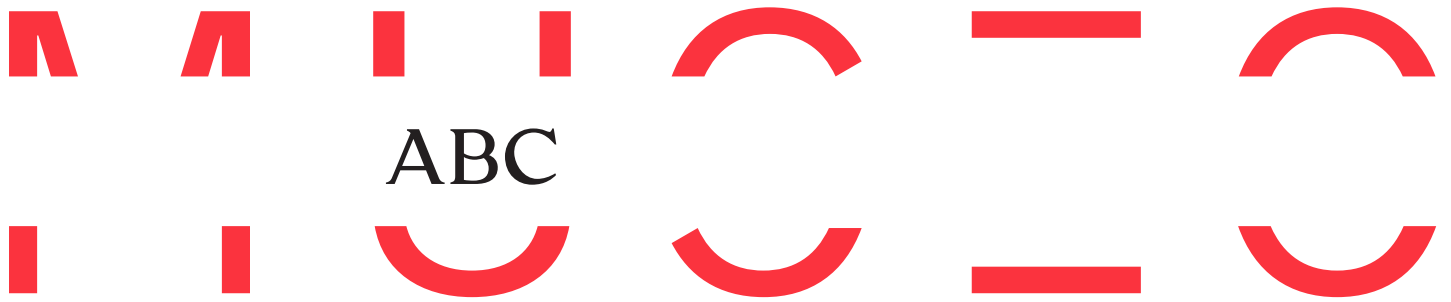
Detectives of human behaviour

Museo ABC de Dibujo e Ilustración presents the exhibition *Hide-and-peek [el juego del escondite]*, a sampling from artist Page Tsou (Taiwan, 1978) who, for the first time, will show his works in Spain. The exhibition brings together a dozen projects containing over one hundred original works by the Taiwanese author, well-known in our country for his exquisite, award-winning illustrated children's books.

His Asian origins and domain and skill of Chinese ink painting are not the main focus —at least not completely— of his proposal which, as of June 28th, will be presented at Museo ABC. The works of Page Tsou offer a mixture of techniques in which it is possible to appreciate influences from Japanese comics, urban art and traditional Oriental painting. It is a complex artistic universe —with more European sophistication than Asian exoticism— mixing timeless motifs and a continued desire to break with the establishment.

Tsou is especially well-known in Spain as an illustrator of children's books, such as *El soldado de plomo*, published in 2012 by Ediciones SM. In addition, he has received international awards such as the Man Group drawing prize in 2008 and the International Illustration Fair Award of Bologna-Fundación SM in 2011. His name is also associated with creative works for such international brands as Johnny Walker, Gucci and Montblanc. Now, the public has a chance to see a different and more universal side of Tsou.

In *Hide-and-peek [el juego del escondite]*, the artist uses pastel and warm tones to contrast with a dream-like world that is difficult to locate. Sometimes disturbing and always mysterious, the author's messages conceal diverse meanings. The title of the sample is a play-on-words that refers to the game of hide-and-peek while also referring to the act of «hiding» and «seeking». «I like to draw with hidden signs and diverse meanings. The majority of my works are illustrated works in which certain serious topics are dealt with, wrapped in the innocence and fun of childhood. This is the main idea that the exhibition reflects», explains Tsou.



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By hide, the Taiwanese artist refers to the act of hiding, but also to the revealing of a truth that is hidden and that we tend to ignore. By seek, he forces the viewer to review some ideas that they had previously considered to be valid. Tsou reveals that «I try to include the search for answers that I carry out during the creation of my works based on the series *The And*. This requires an anti-restriction behaviour. Using a questionnaire of ideas, based on distinct points of view, I attempt to discover/ reveal the social phenomenon that the public sees, yet ignores, in their everyday lives».

Some of the works presented in this exhibition speak of war and violence, not evoking a sense of peace. They reflect upon the infinitely contradictory—the essence of human behaviour. *The And*, *El soldado de plomo*, *Toy Car*, *Dancing Feathers* or the series *Top Gun* and *The Gift that Keeps on Giving* create a magical effect and submerge the spectator—who is old enough to appreciate the aesthetic value of this work yet young enough to play *hide-and-seek* with Tsou—in a place where age does not affect our interpretation of reality, but rather, the eyes with which we see.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in Taichung, Taiwan, Tsou specialized in Chinese ink painting and Graphic Design at University, receiving an MA in Communication Art and Design from the Royal College of Art in London. It was precisely here in this city where he undertook a project of drawing three thousand faces in 30 days, which eventually led to the series *The And*, portraits of the back of the head, a forgotten part, due to its very essence. This concept would influence his approach to future creations.

His illustrations have received diverse international awards and the Paris fashion magazine WAD included him in their list of noteworthy artists. Currently, Tsou continues his artistic activity, including drawing, offering frequent exhibitions in Taiwan and abroad. His works have been included in both public and private collections, such as those of the Conran Foundation (United Kingdom), The Taipei Fine Arts Museum (Taiwan), the Yamaha Design Centre (United Kingdom), the Poster Museum at Wilanow in Warsaw (Poland) and the Ambassador Hotel (Taiwan). His exquisite, sophisticated and even comic style has been recognized by international brands such as Gucci, Montblanc and Johnnie Walker which have included his creations in their corporate campaigns.

Tsou also served as curator of the World Design House Exhibition for the World Design Capital 2016 in Taipei. He received the International Award for Illustration at the Bologna Children's Book Fair - Fundación SM in 2011 and in 2017 he was curator at the Taiwan Pavilion at the Bologna Illustrators Exhibition.



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ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The Museo ABC is located in Madrid, in a modern building that spans some 4,000 m² which hosts the Colección ABC. Inaugurated in 2010, it holds approximately 200,000 drawings and illustrations signed by over 1,500 artists.

Its objectives include the conservation, study and diffusion of the Colección ABC, as well as the design and development of activities related to contemporary drawing and illustration —comics, animation, graffiti, etc.—. It has become an internationally recognized site for these disciplines and thanks to its collection and programming, it has become a unique offering in Spain and the continent.

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CONFERENCE BY PAGE TSOU

29 JUNE — 7 p.m.

«Desde aquí hasta allí - 10 años de obras en proceso» (From here to there. 10 years of works in progress). Free admission until forum is complete.

TOUR + ART WORKSHOP FOR FAMILIES

SATURDAY 23 SEPT / SATURDAY 7 OCT / 5 — 7 p.m.

The program «El club de los sábados» (The Saturdays' Club) devotes two guided tours with art workshops to the Page Tsou exhibition for families with children from 6 to 12 years of age.

MUSEO ABC PRESS OFFICE

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PRESS, INTERVIEWS OR GRAPHIC MATERIALS

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