

Animales de compañía

MUSAC COLLECTION II

The work of Ruth Gómez, based on animated and drawn video, consists of animated stories which recreate the everyday sentiments of each and every viewer. Her characteristic videos, which combine animation, music and digital drawing, are influenced by advertising, comic strip language and video clip aesthetics. The dynamism of the shots used and the characteristic use of the colour pink, in addition to each piece of music that accompanies her images, question the very reality that surrounds the viewer. In each of her works Ruth Gómez uses the same laborious technique: she takes as her starting point real image and, after a painstaking process whereby she creates a multitude of drawings, both in pencil and digitally, she undertakes a technical montage which is then digitally animated, resulting in a work that highlights the different vital states of the contemporary human being.

In the video *Animales de compañía*, and in the two drawings made from it, Ruth Gómez uses the image of a jungle as the stage on which different human beings are fighting each other for survival. It constitutes a metaphor for our own daily jungle, where contemporary man is lined up and judgements. Once again, the artist makes use of her own reality, appearing in the video as one of the characters trying to survive in this jungle. Groups of people running after others in an uncontrolled, distressing and harassing chase, humans who eat others, fights, etc - a catalogue of different forms of persecution and attempts to flee. As the artist herself says of this video: "It shows the most primitive side of the individual, his survival instinct, the rejection of ethical principles when faced with "the other" who, in spite of everything, we are - for emotional or affective reasons, or for reasons that are simply beyond our understanding - doomed to need. Therein lies the paradox and the ambivalence of our daily jungles - both interior and that of our environment - which I attempt to explore through a journey where we encounter concepts such as status, identity roles, ability to adapt, or the use and abuse of power" In this work, the artist attempts to reflect on the nature of human beings as people and as social animals, analysing the different forms of behaviour and thus creating a place where she has developed different characters who are metaphors for the different social scales: "the giants", "the good", and "the bad". The characters in this video are the same ones who inhabit each of Ruth Gómez's works.

Tania Pardo, 2007