June 6th – September 15th, 2024

Paz Errázuriz





Evelyn IV, Santiago, from the series Adam's Apple, 1987

In 2018, after presenting the first retrospective of the artist in Spain, Fundación MAPFRE added 175 works by the Chilean photographer Paz Errázuriz (born Santiago de Chile, 1944) to its collections. The exhibition now being presented at the Centro de Fotografía KBr in Barcelona comprises a carefully chosen selection of these photographs which includes some of the artist's best known series, such as Adam's Apple and The Heart Attack of the Soul, together with other representative works from the 1970s to the present.

Paz Errázuriz began her artistic activities in the second half of the 1970s in Chile, a country subject to the violence and repression of the Pinochet regime (1973-1990), and has continued to the present. Without wishing to define herself as a chronicler of a specific moment, during those years Errázuriz focused on documenting those who were ignored by the regime in different ways. The artist has always worked in her country

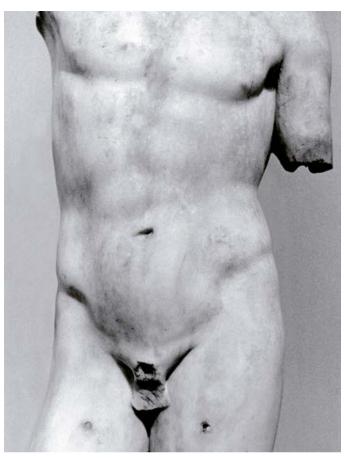


Atáp, Ester Edén Wellington, Puerto Edén, from the series The nomads of the sea, 1995

of origin. In her markedly committed images, Errázuriz's aim seems to be that of giving voice to those who are not normally heard. She photographs spaces in which marginalisation and confinement prevail, but the characters who inhabit them are always presented with trust and mutual respect. In an ongoing manner, Errázuriz has chosen themes and portrayed individuals outside the hegemonic discourse and the official narrative. Her series are populated by the elderly, by children, the mentally ill, prostitutes, transvestites and indigenous people, to give just a few examples. In her images she constantly expresses a pronounced social consciousness as a photographer, with a marked emphasis on an ethical stance before the world, in addition to a profound sense of respect and proximity towards the people she portrays and the issues that concern her. This is an interest which, over time, has maintained and even intensified that coexistence and closeness towards her subjects, as revealed by the extensive body of work that Errázuriz has created over the course of her career.

In 1995 Paz Errázuriz received the Ansel Adams Prize, awarded by the Instituto Chileno Norteamericano de Cultura, and in 2005 the Lifetime Career Award from the Círculo de Críticos de Arte de Chile. In 2014 she received the Pablo Neruda Order of Merit and the PHotoEspaña Prize in 2015, the year in which she also represented Chile at the Venice Biennale. In 2017 Errázuriz received the Chilean National Prize for the Visual Arts.

Paz Errázuriz's work is represented in some of the world's most important museum collections, including Tate, London, the MoMA and the Guggenheim Museum, New York, and the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes in Santiago, Chile.



Excision I, from the series Excision, 2004

KEY THEMES

The Chilean dictatorship. The Chilean military regime began with a coup d'état on 11 September 1973 which overthrew the democratic government of the president, Salvador Allende. From that date until 11 March 1978, Augusto Pinochet presided over the governing Military Junta. In that year and in an effort to legitimise his dictatorship, Pinochet called some disputed elections and in 1980 approved a new constitution, proclaiming himself permanent president of the Republic of Chile. The Junta remained in power until 1990. The Pinochet dictatorship established a curfew that lasted until 1987 and was in general characterised by an anti-communist and authoritarian model in which social liberties, political parties, unions and democracy were repressed, leading to the persecution of a large part of the civilian population and to economic and social inequalities.



Miss Piggy I, Santiago, from the series The circus, 1984

According to statistics from the National Institute for Human Rights in Chile, victims of the Pinochet regime exceeded 40,000 people, between those murdered, tortured and disappeared.

On the margins of society. "[...] what I photograph has to do with people who are not in the centre, but outside, always subordinated to power", Paz Errázuriz said in an interview in 2004. Throughout her career the artist has been interested in individuals who move on the margins of societal canons. Marginality is always a changing issue as it depends on how models are defined at different periods. It thus portrays individuals who live on the streets, boxers at moments of vulnerability and exhaustion, members of small circuses engaged in their everyday lives, people with mental health problems, the elderly, transsexuals engaged in sex work, and more, all focused on aspects most capable of destabilising the normative order.

The photographer. The sense of belonging with regard to her photographic subjects is recurrent in Paz Errázuriz's work. As she herself has pointed out: "I have always thought that photography has to do with who records it. In my case, all my series inevitably reflect my desires, interests and obsessions". From the outset, the artist has always considered that her work involves a constant attachment to the subjects and realities that she addresses, with the result that the conclusion of a work is a complicated process. Many of her subjects belong to a particular community or have particular ways of life, spaces to which she also wishes to belong, at least at the time of taking her photographs.

Dates

From June 6th to September 15th, 2024

Opening hours

Mondays: Closed (except public holidays) Tuesdays – Sundays (and public holidays): 11 am-8 pm Last entry: 7.30 pm

Visitors must leave the galleries 10 minutes before closing time

KBr Fundación MAPFRE

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Admissions

Standard ticket: 5 €
Ticket with reduction: 3 €
Free standard ticket: Tuesdays
(except public holidays)
Groups: 3 € / per person

Bookshop

Tel. +34 93 272 31 80

Guided tour (cultural mediation service)

Wednesdays & Thursdays: 5-8 pm Fridays & Saturdays: 12-2 pm,5-8 pm Sundays & public holidays: 12-2 pm Information at the reception Not available in August

Audio guide

English, Spanish and Catalan: 4 €

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Tell us what you think about the exhibition: #KBrErrazuriz

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Cover: Boxer VI, Santiago, from the series Boxers.

The fight against the angel, 1987

For all the images: Fundación MAPFRE collections

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