

# sobering

87 rue de Turenne

75003 Paris

[www.soberinggalerie.com](http://www.soberinggalerie.com)

## **PRESS RELEASE - EXHIBITION ESPECTROS - CARLOS RIVERA SOBERING GALLERY - MARCH 12 - APRIL 12, 2020**

Sobering gallery presents ESPECTROS, the first solo exhibition of the Chilean artist Carlos Rivera in France. For this occasion, the artist presents an important part of his works related to the exploration of darkness and its marginalization in modern metropolises.

Fascinated by the subtle frontier between the visible and the invisible, Carlos Rivera's artistic work is built in resonance with a personal investigation around the dialectic of light and shadow and its urban manifestation.

The exhibition ESPECTROS refers to the meaning of the word SPECTRE and one of its most popular definitions which is related to the ghostly imagination that inspires suspicion and fear. Between the visible spectrum and the light spectrum, the notion of the «invisible visible» takes on its full meaning and allows an artistic research for the darkness of light that leads the spectator in the recesses of the unconscious allowing to elaborate new visual narratives around the notion of exclusion of darkness in order to understand, to dialogue and to question what most of the time we do not want to see.

In an exhibition where the pictorial, the poetic and the photographic are blended together without hierarchies, the exposed works can be defined as spectral paintings in search of the «visible invisible»; a careful articulation of features and imprints inspired by the social, violent, forgotten and invisible shadows of the light of power and domination of modern cities.

So just imagine a backlit exhibition, a celebration of these ghosts projected at the bottom of their cave - an inverted platonism - an opportunity to resist the power of the logos that tried to confine the shadows to a degraded place and cast them out of the system of reality.

In ESPECTROS ghosts besiege us from all sides, whether in the series of invisible bodies in «Es Como Si No Existiéramos», where we can see a thick sea of dehumanized silhouettes that seem to wander aimlessly; in the hard, cold and sharp migrations of the stainless steel knife series «Vínculos de proximidad», or in the dissolving paintings of «Visibilidad suspendida», a light installation that commemorates the resistance of nature in large cities.

Carlos Rivera's artistic technique is mainly based on the recycling of precarious materials and the desire to give another meaning to their basic use. Tape is transformed into a paint pigment, cutter blades into glittering stars and objects found during urban drifting will be used as sculptural material. Restoring meaning to the dark, to the precarious, putting light at the service of shadow - these actions are at the basis of the technique developed by the artist since the beginning of his career in 2010.

During his studies, he developed and experimented with a personal technique, based on the accumulation of layers of adhesive tape on backlit surfaces.

This experimental technique was born from the desire to work on the imperceptible through the disappearance of the material that merges with the canvas, a darkness that is revealed as soon as the backlit surface lights up just like creating paintings that reveal the (in)visible.

**CARLOS RIVERA** (Bettembourg, Luxembourg 1985)

Graduated in Fine Arts from ARCIS University (2011, Santiago, Chile), he currently lives and works in Santiago de Chile. Since 2008 has exhibited his work in numerous group and solo exhibitions, art fairs and art residencies in Chile, Italy and Belgium, for example: La poética del residuo (2018), Sala de Arte CCU, Santiago de Chile; (Des)astre (2017), N38E13 Cultural Space, Palermo, Italy y Sin Estrellas (2017), Sala Gasco Arte Contemporáneo, Santiago de Chile.