

## GYPSY BALLADS

### Carlos Álvarez Las Heras

Duration: 26.06 - 08.08 2020

**Opening: 26.06 2020 5-7pm**

During the opening, we are of course following the recommendations from the health authorities.

For his exhibition *Gypsy Ballads*, Carlos Álvarez Las Heras has taken his starting point in the poetry collection of the same name (*Romancero Gitano*, 1928) by Federico García Lorca. The collection's 18 poems have been a source of inspiration for the exhibition's 18 works.

Álvarez Las Heras creates close connections between visual art and literature. Here, he describes how the concrete stanzas have been material for the works' visual expression:

#### **About the work *Sleepwalking Ballad (Romance Sonàmbulo)*, 2020.**

This poem is one of the most famous in the *Gypsy Ballads*. A gypsy, eventually a thief, arrives by boat to the Andalusian coast, where his lover has been waiting for a long time. Riding his horse, he finds her father first. The thief explains to him that, tired of his life, he finally understands that he is looking for a peaceful life of love with his daughter. Sadly, the father answers that his daughter couldn't wait any longer, and mad with love, killed herself by drowning inside a cistern. Because the name of the poem is Sleepwalking Ballad, we understand that she is dreaming of her fatal destiny over and over again. Therefore, the ballad is actually a dream in itself.

“Green how I want you green.  
Green wind. Green branches.  
The ship out the sea  
and the horse on the mountain”

#### **About the work *The Unfaithful Wife (La Casada Infiel)*, 2020.**

Written in first person, a gypsy explains his meeting by the river with a gypsy girl who initially hides the fact that she is married. The setting, near the river, is reinforced through more imagery; in that sense, nature continues to be a theme of the poem.

“Then I led her to the river  
certain she was still a virgin  
though she had a husband”

**About the work *The Gypsy nun (La Monja Gitana)*, 2020.**

A young gypsy nun is sewing while feeling an uncontrollable passion, that struggles with her forced religious condition. This feeling grows, motivated by the sensuality that she believes to find in different elements that surround her. It is understood that she has been forced to take the vows (probably because of unrequited love, but this is not explained). Therefore, she lives in a perpetual internal sorrow.

“through the eyes of the nun,  
a pair of horsemen gallop.  
a last, muffled murmur  
strips her shift an,  
gazing on the clouds an mountains  
of the listless distance,  
her heart of sugar  
and verbena breaks”

**Carlos Álvarez Las Heras** (León, Spain, 1982) graduated from Universidad Complutense, Madrid in 2005. Same year, he was invited to exhibit at College of Spain in Paris where he afterwards received The Medal of Artistic Merit in Plastic Arts. Álvarez Las Heras has exhibited at Galería El arte de lo Imposible, Gijón, ARCO, Madrid, and at Revellin Museum, Ceuta, among others. He has done commissions for the city of León and Madrid-Barajas Airport. *Gypsy Ballads* is his 2. exhibition at Galleri Tom Christoffersen.