

FRANCISCO REINA

“MASTERS OF THE LIE”

Francisco Reina develops his artistic work in the field of mystery, the unknown and consequently the fear it generates. As in the fairy woods, populated by animals and people that ended up settling in our imagination and which for centuries have turned our nights on stage conducive to fear, insecurity and the wildest imagination.

Over time, his work has been “politicized” or rather focus their concerns and fears about the consequences of political power. Closer to the darker side of human nature is concerned and, at times, the political, economic interests and power, making decisions and disastrous consequences for other sectors, giving priority to the benefit of an individual or small group. Represents the “political institution” with the architecture through buildings, within which it regulates the structure and organs of state government. Francisco Reina from his interest in manipulating the image manages to transform these buildings and structures present them as tight. Entrenched in these “Bunkers” without seeing or wanting to see the outside, rave wars, insecure and fearful of what may be lost, without letting go or between anything.

*Antonio Jiménez.
Sevilla, April, 2011*

In “Masters of the Lie” he presents his last two series, “The Art of Power” 2010 and “Strauss’ Legacy” 2009:

THE ART OF POWER, 2010

The “political institution,” depicted here in the form of an architectural element, is where the structure and constituent parts that make up a state’s government are laid down. We can also define them as any structure or mechanism of social order governing the behavior of a set of individuals within a given human community.

They exist for societal good. Therefore, these institutions are beyond the reach of individual will.

By meticulously manipulating the image, I have represented these edifices as impenetrable structures that allow nothing to come in and nothing to go out.

We tend to see ruling institutions as if they were rational enterprises whose actions are intended to further the interests of their societies as a whole. The times we live in have made it all too clear that this conception is not always rooted in reality.

Our institutions, public and private alike, through which our society takes shape, are increasingly and inexorably falling under the control of a small but vastly powerful number of political or economic groups which, unfortunately, are far removed from societal reality.

While leaders are elected democratically with the best of intentions, we are seeing them gradually become one with the elite class, a class which is primarily concerned with defending its own interests and maintaining its position at whatever cost.

From the massive construction projects of antiquity to modern-day corporations both public and private, to armies, churches, unions, educational institutions, the mass media...we are faced with lopsided power dynamics that at times take on dysfunctional shapes, putting the well-being of the members of society at grave risk.

Francisco Reina, 2010

STRAUSS' LEGACY, 2009

"Strauss' Legacy" is an approach toward the darkest side of human nature. It is a journey through the disastrous consequences that come about when people who, for the sake of political and economic interests and in the struggle for power, make decisions that have irreversible effects on other humans without the slightest concern for those who bear the brunt of their actions.

This work focuses on the so-called neocons and the way in which their presence in the American presidential administration on September 11, 2001 shaped events. Particularly close attention is given to the role played by a number of multinational corporations in a conflict which began under the name "Operation Enduring Freedom" and turned into a perfect market niche for multi-million dollar earnings.

The events that played out following that day and the catastrophic consequences they have had were also subjects of attention throughout the creative process.

Neoconservatism is an ideology that reflects the political objectives and values of the "new conservatives" in the United States. It is generally regarded as a political movement that came about as a reaction to liberalism and the ideas of the leftist counterculture of the 1960s. One particularly relevant figure was Leo Strauss, the German-born American political philosopher, who is known as one of the fathers of present day neoconservatives as well as their most influential thinker.

Leo Strauss was a staunch believer in the effectiveness of manipulation in politics. For Strauss, lies held great potential and should be used so that the majority (in need of guidance) may follow the correct path. Strauss envisioned a compact and uniform society held together by a universal force that allowed each individual to realize his or her personal ambitions. The collective movement, according to Strauss, would channel its energy toward the exterior.

These ideas were espoused by Strauss's disciples and followers, leading to the creation of the Project for the New American Century (PNAC) in 1997. PNAC is a highly controversial organization. Many people claim that the project advances the notion of total military and economic world dominance based on the idea that the 20th century was the "American Century," and that this supremacy must continue into the 21st century.

The only way to achieve this domination was by scaring the public with the specter of a dark enemy whose mere existence posed a threat to the survival of the American nation, thereby making it possible to carry out their ambitious plans. This was one of the goals of the neocons, and they were prepared to do whatever it took to attain it. September 11, 2001 was the match that lit the fuse on the savagery that continues today.

Francisco Reina, 2009