

Installation: *Buceando en el Territorio del IVAM*

Artist: dEmo (Eladio de Mora)

Institut Valencià d'Art Modern

From 20 September to 4 December

Curators: Consuelo Císcar & Rafael Sierra

Sponsor: Fundación ASTROC

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*Buceando en el Territorio del IVAM* is an installation that belongs within the IVAM's series of projects about water. Made up of 20 polyester and acrylic sculptures 190 cm high, representing divers arranged in little groups alongside other isolated figures, located all along the roof of the IVAM's facade. As dEmo himself has said, "The project involves the installation of 20 divers in different postures, and it is up to the spectator to find an explanation for them. I think they are disturbing figures [...] There is something surrealistic about them. In the first place, because they are divers out of water, like pedestrians in a foreign place or like unexpected visitors."

dEmo (Eladio de Mora, Toledo, 1960) combines in his sculptures the languages of figuration, Pop Art and Expressionism, and his source of inspiration and metaphor are everyday elements that have nothing to do with the transcendental iconographic world. This “iconisation of domestic life” as a recognition of forms is the principal sign of identity of his work, where art, iconography, elements and discourse constitute a tongue-in-cheek comment for the art world. The recognisable elements in his sculptures are presented out of context, transformed, with alterations of scale and representing different functions from their usual ones, with the intention of surprising the spectators and arousing their curiosity.

In his works, which present different and complementary readings, there is an underlying critical sense, like in his bears, which can represent both the symbol of Madrid and an ecological warning concerning endangered animal species. His cars, which occupy public spaces, can also be interpreted as the industrialised invasion of urban space. The divers, too, with their hoods and snorkels, look like defenceless individuals that need rubber suits and air tanks to protect themselves from their milieu.

In its formal aspect, dEmo’s work presents simplified features typical of children’s toys or advertising knickknacks with bright colours that contrast strongly with each other, or in the case of the divers, whose figures are completely clad in white, underscoring the serialised effect, and a sort of dehumanised isolation, accentuated by locating them in urban settings, in public buildings or spaces, emphasising their situation of “banishment”.

Among the installations made by dEmo, it is worth mentioning especially *What is dEmo*, at the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo in Salamanca, *Osos del Mar*, at the Centro de Arte Juan Ismael in Fuerteventura, *Señales arte*

*en la carretera*, at the Centro Puerta de Toledo in Madrid, *Coches*, in the fairgrounds of IFEMA in Madrid, *dEmo*, at the Drissien Gallery in Munich, Germany, *Twins*, an installation for *Casa Decor* in Barcelona. His future interventions include *Hipotético Animalario*, at the Centro de Arte Moderno in Madrid, the installation *Osos*, at the Cabildo in Fuerteventura and an installation of large polyester flowers for the CAC in Málaga.