

CHRISTTO & ANDREW

Christto & Andrew explore how beauty can be objective through the awareness of ordinary characters and objects. Christto Sanz and Andrew Weir live and work in Doha, inside the Qatar Gulf, but they are not native of the country; this condition of 'expatriates' reveals their attention and curiosity towards what happens around them, and to the unexpected changes in economic, social and cultural spheres of contemporary society. This punctual observation is the starting point of their bodies of work which explore the concept of identity and the impact of globalization and technology.. Working as a team also allows them to develop a complex and shared language, analyzing the photographic medium as a creator of images standing between the real and the technologically-built world.

SERIES PRESENTED at Unseen 2019 – PREMIERE WORKS

Encrypted Purgatory (2018 – ongoing) is the duo's latest body of works, in which they present scenes that recall a science fiction imaginary, where primitive and new technologies are fused together in an indefinite time. The images are striking for their alienating dimension which creates a disturbing atmosphere thanks to the visionary subjects, strong colors, environments and objects inspired by a chimerical scenery. The work of Christto & Andrew poetically evokes the concern for a future increasingly dominated by technology in which man, in his most dehumanized version, is entirely controlled by an artificial mind. They use figures and objects to build a different world, formulating the aesthetics of a suspended time that is self-generated, in a sort of visual and conceptual chain reaction. At first glance their works are intriguing and alluring but when scrutinised contrasts and juxtapositions that are expressively "dark" create in the observer a short-circuit of meaning.

For Unseen 2019, Christto & Andrew present three premiere works from *Encrypted Purgatory* series.

BIO

Christto & Andrew is an artistic duo born in 2012. Christto Sanz (Puerto Rico, 1985) and Andrew Weir (South Africa, 1987), live and work in Doha, Qatar. Since the inception of their collaboration in 2012 they have exhibited at Katara Art Center, Doha, Qatar (2014); Multimedia Art Museum, Moscow, (2015); NRW Forum, Dusseldorf, DE (2016); Espai Tactel, Valencia, (2016); East Wing Gallery, Doha, Qatar (2016); Unseen, Amsterdam (2016); Museu Nogueira da Silva, Braga, PT (2016); NonostanteMarras, Milan (2016); Kraftwerk, Berlin (2017); Metronom, Modena (2018). In 2014 they were selected by Foam Magazine as Foam Talent. In 2018, they were shortlisted for the New Discovery Award of Les Rencontres de la Photographie Festival in Arles.