

**Press release**

**Sebastián Díaz Morales | *Pasajes***

09.06.– 30.07.2022

Opening: Wednesday, 08 June 2022, 6–9 pm

carlier | gebauer, Madrid, is pleased to announce *Pasajes*, a solo exhibition by Argentinean artist and filmmaker Sebastián Díaz Morales. The exhibition will present 6 films from his *Pasajes* series (2012 – onwards), which confronts viewers with a continuum of ruptures, an incommensurable succession of images of disparate spaces and places.

Through the aesthetic processes of montage and semiotic overlaying, Díaz Morales's *Pasajes* series opens up a semi-surreal scenario in which the acting subject (the protagonist) appears ever-more fragile, and to some degree even fictional himself. His walking, his search, must apparently be continued ad infinitum, so that the seeker here becomes the prisoner of his own intentions.

Díaz Morales's visual language is characterized by clarity, by a documentary straightforwardness, but also by subtle irony and skepticism. In the *Pasajes* series he creates spatial structures from imaginary connections that simply depict what supposedly exists and that make so-called reality appear as a construct and an illusion.

On the surface, his films seem realistic, but as they unfold a symbolic, metaphorical dimension gradually takes over. Díaz Morales leads the viewer into a phantasmal, quasi-magical visual realm, one focused not on escapism but on a subtle yet relentless questioning of our conception of reality.

Díaz Morales's examination of perception and reality is based on the assumption that reality itself is by nature highly fictional. "I am very interested in the notion of reality and fiction. [...] My work explores the boundaries between reality and fiction," says Díaz Morales. In his work, the viewer's imagination does not function as a basic counterpart to the real. Rather, it operates as a force capable of evoking space and producing it diegetically, one that, beyond generating a direct visual representation, fills in the gaps in seeing and, as the film unfolds, gradually reveals to the viewer the constructed nature of what we call reality. Reality is presented here as a phantasm, as something that has always eluded pictorial definition. It is therefore always "a little bit ahead" of the image and the viewer's gaze.

**Sebastián Díaz Morales** (b.1975, Comodoro Rivadavia) lives and works in Amsterdam. In 2009 he was awarded with a Guggenheim Fellowship. Díaz Morales has exhibited in venues such as STUK Museum, Leuven, Belgium; Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen, Siegen; Le Fresnoy, Tourcoing; CAC Vilnius, Vilnius; Tate Modern, London; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Art in General, New York; Ludwig Museum, Budapest; De Appel, Amsterdam; Bienale São Paulo; Biennale of Sydney; Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona; MUDAM, Luxembourg; Kadist Art Foundation, Paris; and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon. He participated in the 57th Venice Biennale curated by Christine Macel. His works are included in the permanent collections of the Centre Pompidou, Paris; Tate Modern, London; Fundación Jumex, Mexico City; Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin; Sammlung-Goetz, Munich; and the Fundação de Arte Moderna, Museu Berardo, Lisbon.

Díaz Morales is participating in the upcoming Documenta in Kassel opening on June 2022.