

Emma Meruelo

(Santander, 1975)

Without Failure, 2021

Enamel and tissue paper on canvas

For Emma Meruelo, her composition "is based on the observation of the state of the feminine (as a structure that goes beyond the assigned) and its manifestation in the plastic and visual arts through the selection of four works from the Banco Santander Collection."

The work process is taken from Luis Gordillo. In his work *Crash*, Gordillo processes the spontaneous gesture of the preparatory sketch to "geometrize" it and transform it into a structure that is now consciously conceived.

In the piece *Composition*, the Catalan artist Francisco Ferreras does not use oil, but paints by superimposing papers of different shades. In the pieces dating from these years there are often lateral or oblique displacements that show the attempt to try out all the ways of constructing space. This last aspect is what pushes Meruelo to imagine and try other structural dispositions that are not usual in her work.

Another of the works selected by the Cantabrian artist is *Wildflowers* by Francisco Bores, a piece that responds to a desire for clarity, forgetting figuration and making the forms transparent and schematic.

Her interest in shedding light on and understanding the relationship between femininity and culture is what led Emma Meruelo to select the work *Goddesses, Wives, Whores and Slaves* by Patricia Gadea. In it, the artist reflects on discrimination and female exploitation through characters taken from television and toy advertising during her childhood. The art critic Francisco Calvo Serraller wrote that Gadea "has scissors in her eyes" as she seems to employ the collage technique even when she does not literally use the procedure. This is also how Emma Meruelo composes this work, "cutting out" parts of the selected works to make her own composition.

SELECTED WORKS FROM THE BANCO SANTANDER COLLECTION



1. Francisco Ferreras (Barcelona, 1927)
Composición [Composition], 1977

2. Patricia Gadea (Madrid, 1960 - Palencia, 2006)
Diosas, esposas, rameras y esclavas
[Goddesses, Wives, Whores and Slaves], 1993

3. Luis Gordillo (Sevilla, 1934)
Choque [Crash], 1968

4. Francisco Bores (Madrid, 1898 - París, 1972)
Fleurs des champs [Wildflowers], 1961