

# Manuel Fernández Saro

(Santander, 1962)

*A Baroque Work, a Contemporary Work*, 2021  
Acrylic on canvas

Manuel Fernández Saro is the author of this piece entitled *A Baroque Work, a Contemporary Work*. In the artist's own words, his intervention "aims to be a stimulus for reinterpretation and, at the same time, an invitation to experience the content of the renovated Pereda building".

For Fernández Saro, the imprint that remains with us after visiting an exhibition or browsing through an art catalogue is fundamental. Everything we have seen then passes through our personal filter, is reconfigured and gives rise to a new scenario. This reinterpretation of art history has been a constant feature of his artistic career.

In *A Baroque Work, a Contemporary Work*, the artist from Santander takes elements from different works of the Banco Santander Collection to make them his own and incorporate them into his discourse. Thus, we can play at finding the references: on the left, we observe the dwarf that serves Doña Juana de Mendoza in Sánchez Coello's work with the face of the artist himself. This figure is overshadowed by a sort of balloon in the shape of a pig's head. It is one of the animals that appears in the work *Meat Stall with the Holy Family Giving Alms* by Aertsen, made by his workshop due to the success and fame that this Dutch painter acquired at the time. In the central area, we find a crouched woman from the painting *Women Dressing* by Solana, one of the best represented artists in the Banco Santander Collection. On the right side of the panel, the artist draws the sculpture *Ballerina* by Niki de Saint Phalle. The background of the scene is clearly inspired by the work *Layers* by the renowned artist Juan Uslé. Duplicating it so that it occupies the entire surface, Fernández Saro achieves the sensation of looking at a glass on a rainy and foggy day in front of what could be the horizon of a bay.

## SELECTED WORKS FROM THE BANCO SANTANDER COLLECTION



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1. **Niki de Saint Phalle** (Neuilly-sur-Seine, Francia, 1930 - La Jolla, California, Estados Unidos, 2002)  
*Bailarina* [Ballerina], 1966

2. **José Gutiérrez Solana** (Madrid, 1886-1945)  
*Mujeres vistiéndose* (*Coristas de pueblo*)  
[*Women Dressing* (Village Chorus Girls)], ca. 1933

3. **Alonso Sánchez Coello** (Benifairó de los Valles, Valencia, ca. 1531 - Madrid, 1588)  
*Doña Juana de Mendoza con un enano*  
[*Doña Juana de Mendoza with a Dwarf*], ca. 1585

4. **Abraham Lacalle** (Almería, 1962)  
*La huida* [The Flight], 1999

5. **Pieter Aertsen (Taller)** (Ámsterdam, 1507/1508-1575)  
*Bodegón con carne y con la Sagrada Familia*  
[*Meat Stall with the Holy Family Giving Alms*], ca. 1551

6. **Juan Uslé** (Santander, 1954)  
*Layers*, 1990-1991