

El Roto

The red line

March 13 – May 14, 2021

The exhibit *The red line* gathers a set of drawings made by El Roto during the year 2020. It is a deep reflection on the extreme situation we have reached during the last year. All the drawings are compiled in a book with the same title, published by Libros del Zorro Rojo.

“The red line is a mental as well as physical limit. This limit has been significantly overstepped by a culture that long ago lost the ethical references and contents that allowed it to define itself as such.

Today we witness—in fake surprise—the consequences of our actions, but we perceive them as something outside our responsibility. Happy and content, we consume attractive mirages that keep us drugged, locked in silicon bubbles. And in this semi-hypnotic state, we believe we are safe from the inevitable consequences of our shortcomings.

Perhaps it is time—before our will is exhausted completely—to look away from the spotlights that dazzle us, and to try to let another light (not the artificial light of flat screens) illuminate us. Perhaps in this way we will succeed in revitalizing a dying culture, or in creating a new culture with which we can honor the capacity for thought that we attribute to ourselves.

In the meantime, as an alternative, it is the author's will to offer the curious reader other images that, if not true, at least do not seem totally implausible.”

El Roto

Andrés Rábago, El Roto (Madrid, 1947) is a painter and illustrator. During the seventies and eighties, under the pseudonym OPS, he collaborated in numerous publications, such as Hermano Lobo, La Codorniz, Triunfo and Madriz. His drawings referred to the subconscious and were situated in a stylistic context close to surrealism and the Panic movement. With the arrival of democracy, OPS became quieter and a new pseudonym appeared: El Roto, whose social satire tries every day to break the individual-mass condition and alert the conscience to an anesthetic reality. El Roto's drawings have been published in newspapers like Diario 16, El Independiente and, for many years now, El País. He has exhibited at the Contemporary Art Centre of Malaga, the Orleans Musée de Beaux Arts, the Zaragoza Histories Centre, the University of Córdoba, the Tecla Sala in Hospitalet, the Gijón Barjola Museum, the Sala Amos Salvador in Logroño, and the Valencia El Carme Center, among others. In 2017 he participated in the exhibition "The city of Madrid" at the FIL in Guadalajara, Mexico. In 2019 his exhibition One Cannot Watch was presented at the Prado Museum.