Hello. I'm losu and I'm an artist living in Lima, I was born in Lima in 1986. Mi paintings, installations and institutional work explore the imaginations of an heterogeneous modernity to recover its utopian potential.

Recently I was awarded the Artist Research Fellowship by MoMA-Cisneros Institute (New York, 2021), the Artus-Delfina grant (Lima - London, 2019), the National Painting Price of the Museum of the Peruvian Central Bank (Lima, 2022), and the I ICPNA Contemporary Art Price (Lima, 2018). Previosly I have been a resident artist at Fonderie Darling (Montreal, 2017), Triangle (Marseille, 2014) and La Ene (Buenos Aires, 2013). My work is part of the Museo de Arte de Lima collection, the Hochschild collection, the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros collection, the Jorge M. Perez collection and others.

## **losu Aramburu**







Atlas Subterráneo [1933 [1810 – 1984] 2020], exhibition view, 80M2 – Livia Benavides, Lima, 2022











*Ancón*, 2022, oil on canvas, 170 x 230 cm



Tres personajes, 2022, oil on canvas, 170 x 280 cm







Un nuevo hombre. Composición 4, 2019, plaster, cement and sand, 280 x 665 cm



In A New Man, [...] [a specifically modern way of looking at the past] is directed to the very 20th century, dwelling on a number of details that appear not as remnants of a world that can be accessed by worshipping what little is left of it, but rather by understanding them as fragments actively selected by the artist and presented as base forms of the modernist desire in its most militant moments. Consequently clenched fists, pointing fingers and scraps of machinery coexist with fragments of naked bodies, arms and legs that touch and worker-peasant handshakes. This is what I meant before: each of the blocks that comprise this sort of mural, titled A New Man, results from the labor of dissecting a number of paintings, illustrations and some reliefs that losu has chosen to highlight as fragments of utopian figures produced in many places across the 20th century. Each and every one of them figures a body. On one end, there are bodies at work; on the other, bodies being freed from everything imposed on them, including work. In between are diagrams that deserve separate consideration, as the only utopian formalizations in a pragmatic sense. The poles that coordinate the fragments appear to be expressionism and constructivism —each with its own indigenist or classicist undertone— which places us in a universe contested between nudity as the supreme figure of freedom and fusion with technology as a condition for possible freedom; between the imagination of a community that finds equality in the expressive body and a society that assembles the bodies of different social classes into a larger rig ultimately geared to abolish those differences [...]

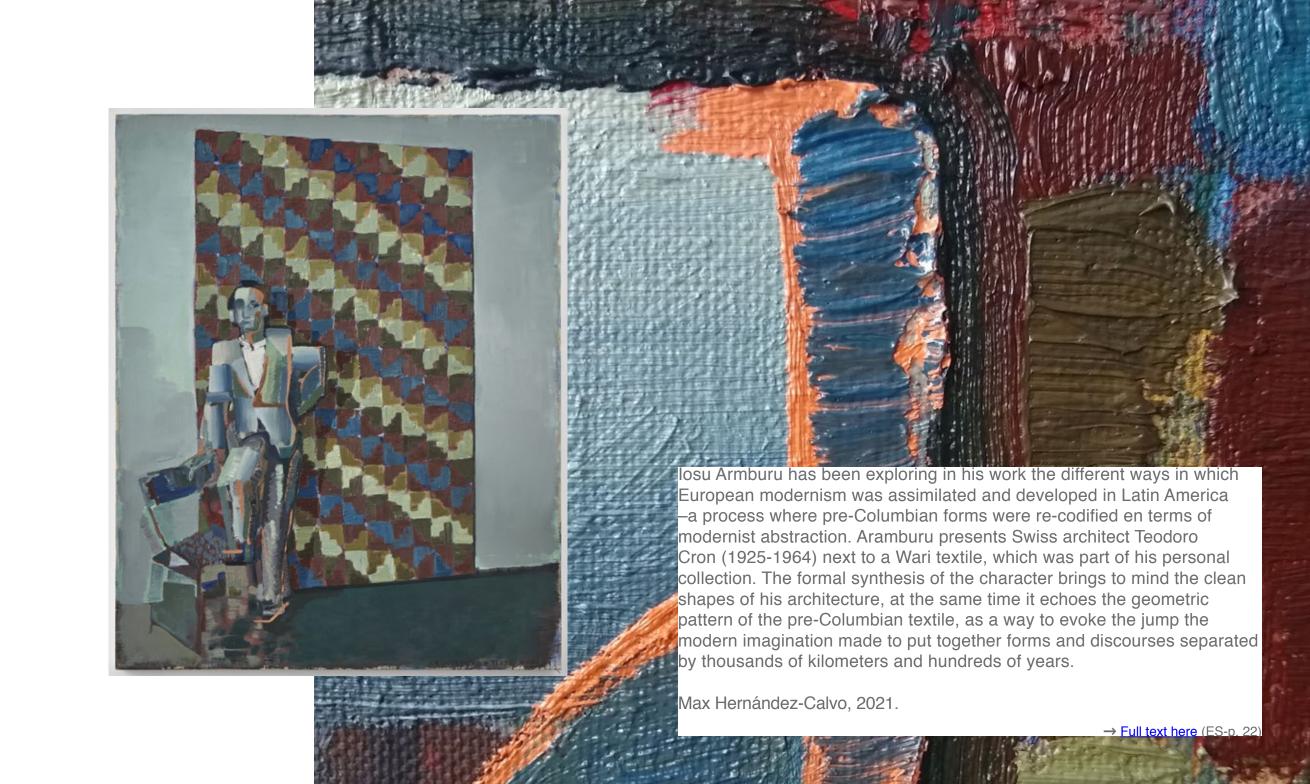
Mijail Mitrovic, 2019.



Un nuevo hombre. Composición 2, 2019, plaster, cement and sand, 175 x 350 cm



Modulor II, 2019, oil on canvas, 43 x 33 cm









X106 (Fantasmas), 2020, oil and acrylic on canyas, 150 x 240 cm

That potential display of the body [...] seems to be unleashed in X106 (Ghosts). It is not difficult to see that, here too, the opposition between figuration and abstraction, that watershed moment in the schematic vision of the traditional art history, collapses in the vision of a body that exhibits the strength of the working class as a collective, organized subjectivity in a way different from those that socialist plastic arts tried in the past. [...]

Mijail Mitrovic, 2021.





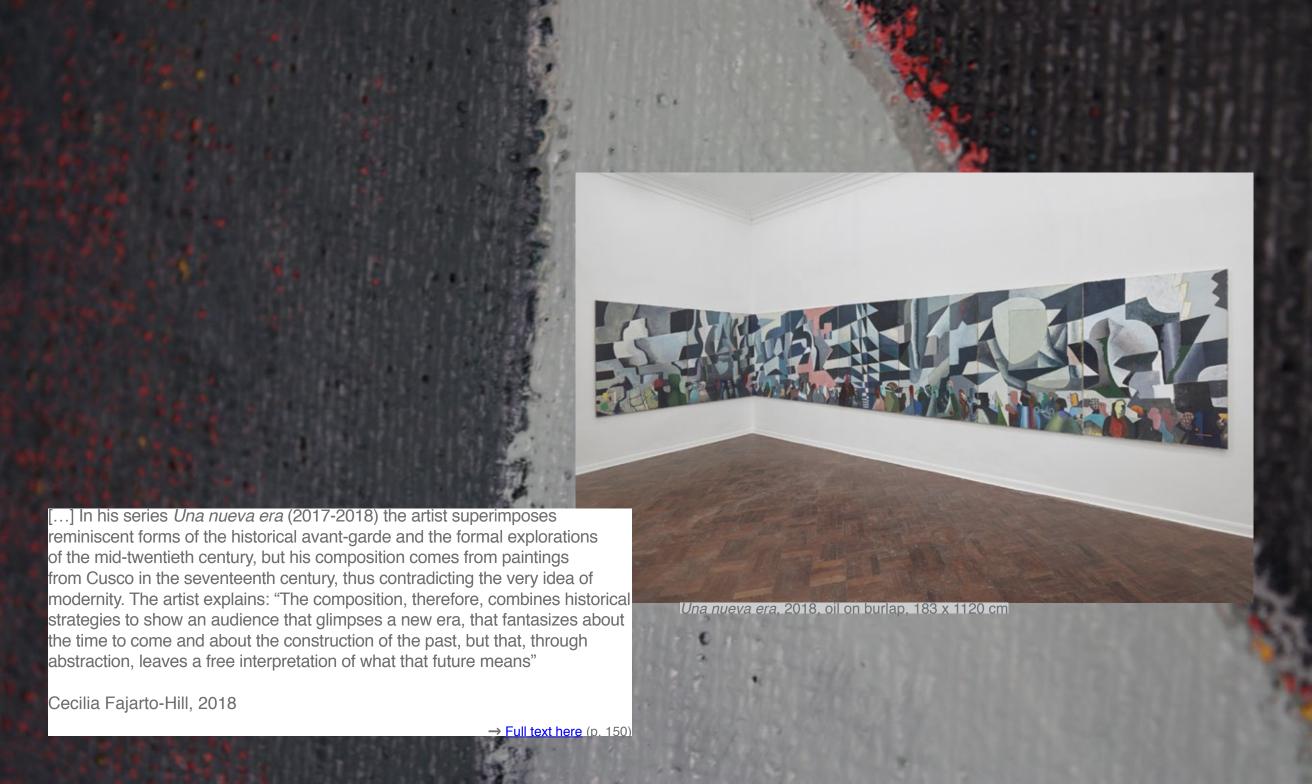
[...] The staging of fourteen large panels (184 x 140 cm) placed next to each other, arranged throughout the space of the exhibition room. None of the paintings rests on the walls of the museum, they hang from the ceiling and are anchored to the ground with small concrete weights. This arrangement of the pieces builds an obligatory route that the spectator must take to be able to observe the whole set. [...]

The image the panels offer [...] contains both abstract elements and stylizations of figurative elements, in some cases clearly recognizable [...]. Within this display of forms with a modernist accent, losu has included certain recurring symbolic elements, eyes gor example, that are repeated along the floating wall that forms his paintings.

Karina Curillo Mena, 2018.









Cortejo fúnebre, 2019, oil on canvas, 150 x 220 cm



Jueves 17 de abril de 1930, 2021, oil on canvas, 170 x 150 cm Peruvian Central Bank collection, Lima

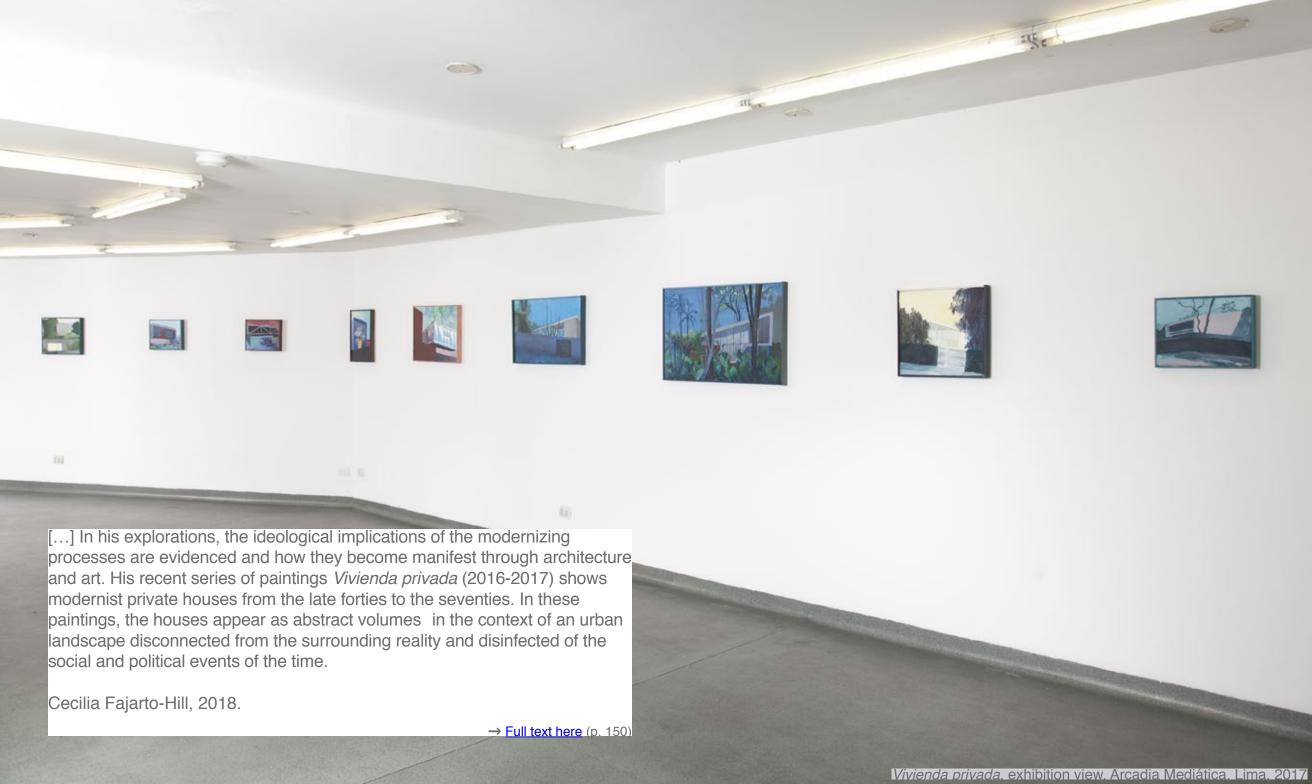
[...] in Cortejo fúnebre (Funeral courtship, 2019) [the suits worn by the men] appear as the element that makes these "men in Peru who possess the habit of thinking" —intellectuals, often middle class— stand in equal conditions with the proletariat. Here, the suit is the uniform of a multitude that conceives itself as militant. However, unlike certain undifferentiated individuality among the mass in the original photograph, here losu has constructed each character as a particular figure. Each with its own form, a gesture that suggests an accurate conception of the meaning of what diversity, difference, heterogeneity and other categories favored by present postmodernist thinking (and its more local variants, like decolonialism) could acquire within and not in spite of modern experience. Many faces of modernity appear, but it is a multiplicity far removed from the cosmetic celebration of multiculturalism. We see a multitude configured around an *idea*, which losu materializes in the color correlation between the mantle draped over the casket and the banner that endorses it. [...]

Mijail Mitrovic, 2019.













Ante el futuro 1, 2015, oil on canvas, 70 x 90 cm



La casa que crece, 2020, oil on canvas, 70 x 86 cm





[...] in the exhibition *Modernidad histérica* (Hysterical modernity, 80m2 - Livia Benavides, 2015), losu thought of the space of architecture and urbanism produced or imagined by the Peruvian modern project between the forties and sixties. One painting, *Ante el futuro I* (Confronting the future 1, 2015), depicts a group of men in suits, on a balcony, gazing upon a scale model of the San Felipe housing project. The new space that would modernize life in Lima acquires an objective character through the scale model. [...] The housing project seems adequate for these middle class men who, living through Fernando Belaunde Terry's first presidential term in the mid-sixties, understand themselves as the subject of Peruvian modernity.

Mijail Mitrovic, 2019.



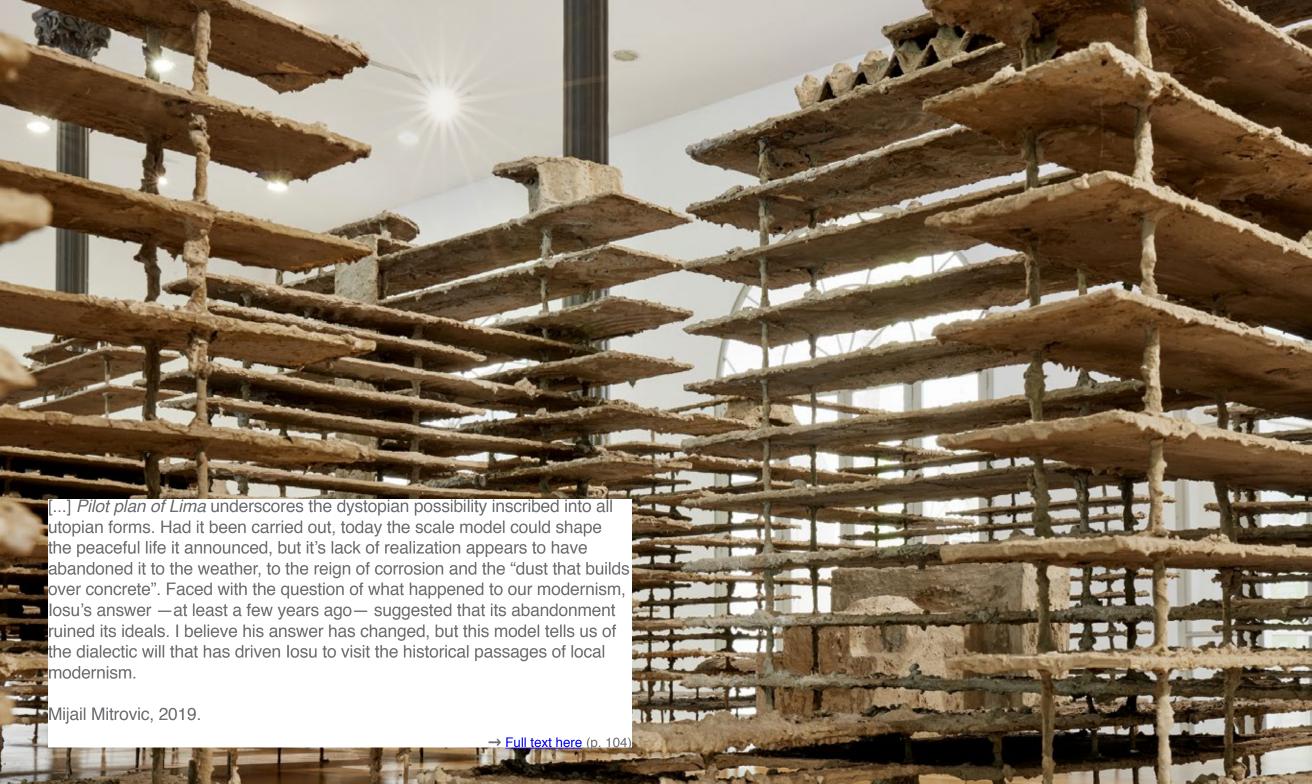




Plan Piloto de Lima, 2015, various materials, 226 x 488 x 366 cm. Museo de Arte de Lima collection

replicates a preliminary design for the urban restructuring of the capital, conceived between 1947 and 1949 during the government of Manuel Odría. This project, directed by the National Office for Urban Planning, led by Luis Dórich and with the support of Josep Lluís Sert, Paul Lester Wiener and Ernesto Nathan Rogers, aimed to channel the urban growth of the city in an orderly and rational way, dividing the spaces according to their functions. The test design contemplated the transformation of twelve blocks in downtown Lima [...]. Like many others, this project turned out to be a chimera and joins other failed initiatives within the framework of developmentalism in the region in the mid-twentieth century.

Sharon Lerner, 2017







63 (variación de SS, 1955), 2020, cement on synthetic fabric and faux fur, 80 x 180 cm





Vivienda social en Latinoamérica, 2015, acrylic on canvas, 150 x 360 cm



Llegada de Sert, Gropius y sus esposas a Lima; son recibidos en el aeropuerto por los arquitectos Velarde, Linder, Marquina y Belaunde; 1954, 2015, oil and aerosol on canvas, 150 x 220 cm



losu Aramburu's practice has dual points of departure: the Romantic observation of pre-Hispanic ruins, on the one hand, and the flaws inherent in Modernism, on the other. His source materials include archival images, and texts about architecture, particularly from the 1940s and 1950s, the decades in which Modernism flourished in Latin America. Aramburu seeks new relationships between pre-Hispanic and modern times to reveal more complex and nuanced truths behind their official images of legendary past grandeur and of future-oriented efficiency.

In the series *Ser de su tiempo*, the artist superimposes neon silhouettes of iconic buildings constructed during the rise of modernist architecture in Lima over images of ruins from pre-Hispanic structures. In the work shown here, the neon outline corresponds to the Club Internacional de Tiro No. 14 in Arequipa, built in 1946 by Adolfo Córdova, Carlos Williams, and José Polar. The painting in the background depicts a contemporary view of the remains of the pre-Hispanic city of Armatambo, in present-day Chorrillos.

Developments such as the Club Internacional de Tiro caused the abandonment—and in some cases even the destruction—of ancient vestiges. Aramburu suggests, however, that the lineage of pre-Hispanic architecture, filtered through a modernist sensibility and economic model, continues to inform contemporary vernacular architecture on the outskirts of Lima.

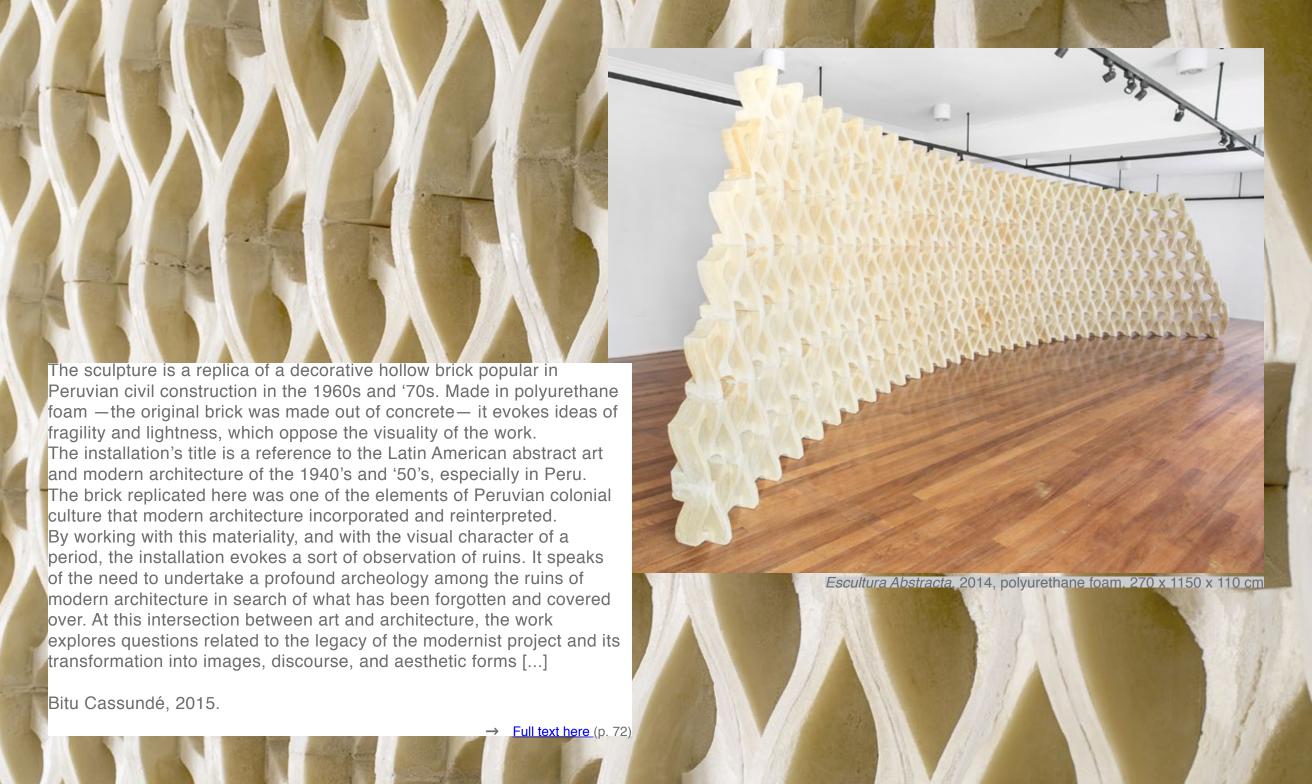
Sofía Hernández Chong Cuy & Sara Meadows, 2019.

→ Full text here (p. 75)

Ser de su tiempo III, 2012, oil on canvas and neon, 90 x 120 cm. Patricia Phelps de Cisneros collection



Ser de su tiempo XII, 2013, oil on canvas and neon, 58 x 37 cm





Panoramas do sul, exhibition view, Sesc Pompeia, São Paulo, 2015

Av. Tacna (1941) and Av. 28 de Julio (1904-1906) coincide formally and in their subject matter by examining two important road projects typical of the urban modernization processes in Lima during the early decades of the 20th century. The enlarging of Tacna Avenue required expropriations and demolitions to reach its current dimension. The 28 de Julio Avenue project, on the other hand, was not carried away, but it would have joined Plaza de Armas and Plaza San Martín. To do so, it proposed crossing the five blocks that separate them with a large-scale road. Reviewing a project that wasn't executed implies some abstraction: momentarily dispense with the present time to set up the project in its historical time-space and surmise hypothetical urban and social effects. In the case of an executed project, historically reviewing it implies a questioning approach of the past and present moments; involves evaluating the impact after the action. With one for each avenue, the proposal presents two original architectural plans over two sets of cement blocks. Their volumetric force and their rugged surfaces contrast with the fragility of the vintage plans and its bidimensional format. Both dialogue from the empty space left between the blocks, a space that coincides with the sections that each avenue occupies or would have occupied. Every road work in an old urban area implies demolishing to build, remove to enlarge, separate to join. An exercise of memory, history and reflection as the one proposed by Aramburu is a generator of mental images and open questions.

Victor Mejía, 2017.









1952, 2013, oil and spray paint on canvas, 90 x 70 cm



Edificio Neptuno, 2013, oil on canvas, 150 x 110 cm



Un Centro Cívico para Lima II, 2016, oil and cement on canvas, 113 x 160 cm





20

11 (variación de RG, 1955), 2014, cement on paper, 150 × 125 cm Patricia Phelps de Cisneros collection losu Aramburu understands history as a permeable reality in which fact and fiction intertwine. He uncovers official narratives of the modernist project and the pre-hispanic past of his native Peru through the use of an In the cement drawings [...] of the series *Variaciones*, Aramburu explores the legacy of the modernist project in mid-century Peru by flattening and stylizing different graphic sources from the 1920s to 1960s, which he culled from advertising and publishing to paintings by important local artists [...]. In doing so, he reflects upon the deficient, yet ubiquitous presence of the modernist tradition in the country, and how its unfulfilled

28 (Variación de JP, 1956), 2014, cement on paper, 86 x 125 cm

Sofía Hernández Chong Cuy & Sara Meadows, 2019.

abstract formal language.

promises are far from forgotten.



8 (Variación de JP, 1957), 2014, cement on paper, 125 x 118 cm



51 (Variación de CM, 1926-33), 2019, cement and acrylic on faux fur, 75 x 55 cm









[...] modernism must be seen again as a field of dispute, both against certain traditions or social inertias that it always takes as its critical object, and within the forms it produces. "The private interest will be subordinated to the collective interest" said Le Corbusier in his Charter of Athens, and it is in a homonymous series of paintings by losu Aramburu where we find him quoted. In the series, fragments of the iconic charter are confronted with exercises of abstraction that reveal themselves as forms intrinsically linked to the modernist creed. I point to the image only to return the problem outlined here to its historical dimension, namely the question about the politics of modernism and the struggle for its meaning, long repressed among us. Only in this dimension will it be possible to ask an urgent question, related to Marshall Berman: how to use our modernism today?

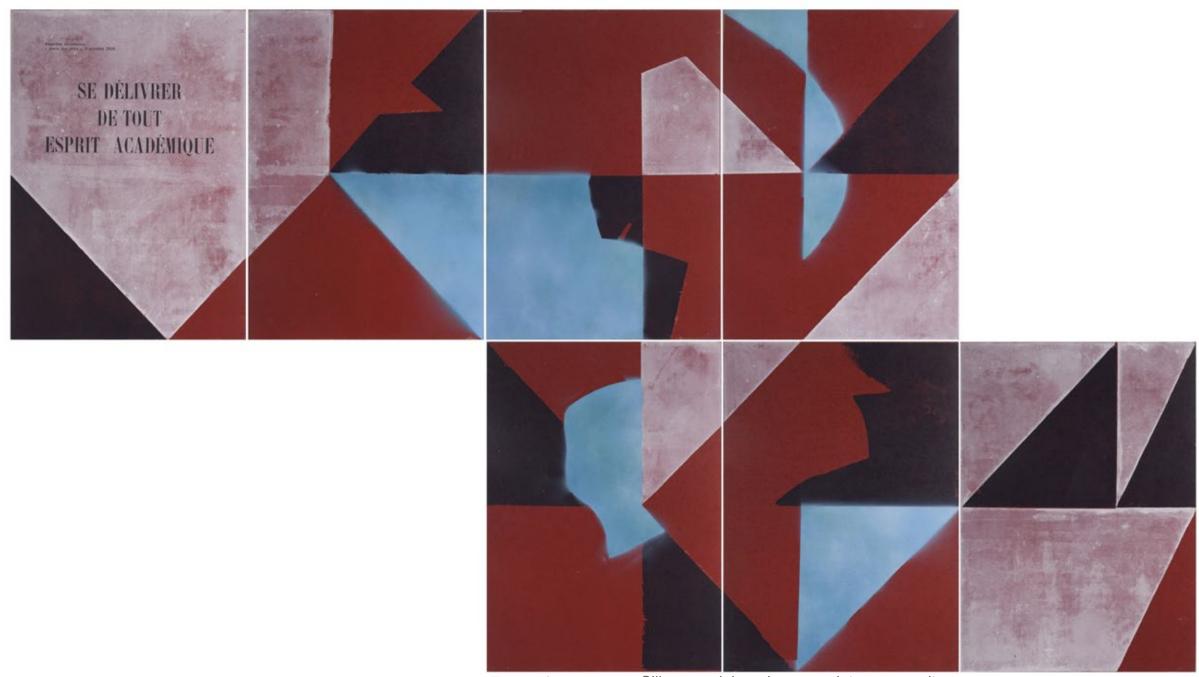
Mijail Mitrovic, 2019.

→ Full text here (ES-p. 58-59)

L'intérêt privé sera subordonné à l térêt collectif.



Charte d'Athènes § 59, 2014, pochoir on paper, 84 x 59 cm



First conference, 2016, Silkscreen ink and spray paint on masonite, 120 x 210 cm



Sixt conference, 2016, Silkscreen ink and spray paint on masonite, 180 x 168 cm



Mural, 2014, oil on canvas, 80 x 110 cm



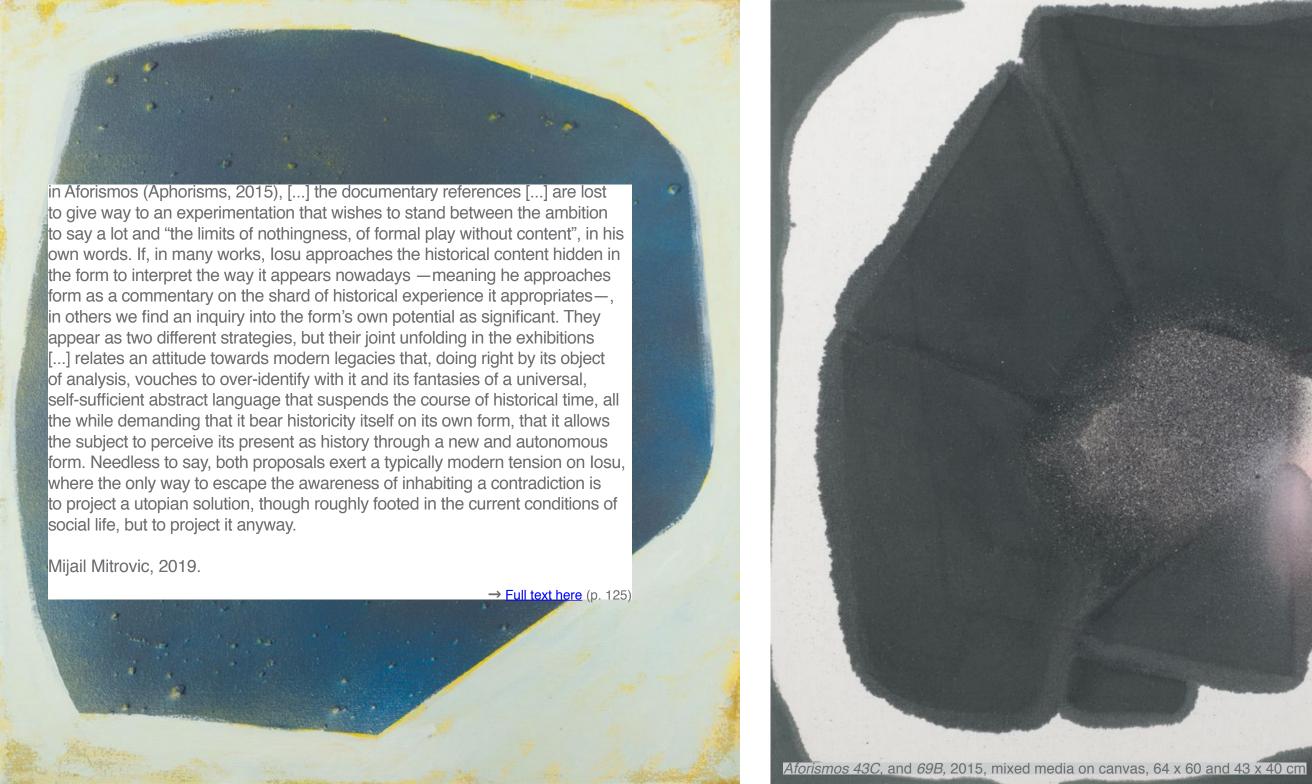


The *Aphorisms* series presents 71 abstract paintings of different sizes and relatively square formats. The different technical resources used do not hide the same compositional idea, with a central element that refers to the concept of fragment. [...]

Max Hernández-Calvo, 2015.









50 (Variación de CM, 1938-48), 2019, cement and acrylic on faux fur, 110 x 90 cm



Sin título [O28a], 2016, oil and cement on canvas, 33 x 26 cm





49 (Variación de CM, 1934-38), 2019, cement and acrylic on dyed cotton, 60 x 64 cm

48 (Variación de CM, 1934-38 o 1955), 2019, cement and acrylic on dyed cotton, 220 x 220 cm

Selected Exhibitions Prizes and residencies

- 2022 [Solo] *Atlas subterráneo* [1933 [1810 1983] 2020], 80M2-Livia Benavides, Lima [Group] *Signos de Vida*, 80M2-Livia Benavides, Lima
- 2020 [Solo] Comprimir el siglo, 80M2-Livia Benavides, Lima.
- [Solo] Un nuevo hombre, ICPNA Miraflores, Lima.
   [Group] Portadores de sentido, curated by S. Hernández Chong-Cuy, Museo Amparo de Puebla, México.
   [Group] En orden de aparición, curated by L. Pérez-Oramas y E. De Diego, Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando, Madrid.
- 2018 [Solo] *Una nueva era*, Museo de Arte Universidad San Marcos, Lima.
- 2017 [Solo] Vivienda privada, SUM-Arcadia Mediática, Lima.
  [Group] Próxima parada: artistas peruanos en la colección Hochschild, curated by O. Saya, Sala Alcalá 31, Madrid.
  [Group] Revisiones. Obras contemporáneas en la colección del MALI, curated by S. Lerner, Museo de arte de Lima.
  [Group] Coordenadas alteradas, curated by V. Mejía, Galería Germán Krüger Espantoso ICPNA, Lima.
- 2016 [Group] Abstracción 2, Arróniz Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico City.
- [Group] 19° Festival de Arte Contemporânea Sesc\_Videobrasil, Panoramas do Sul, SESC Pompeia, São Paulo.
  [Solo] Modernidad Histérica, 80M2-Livia Benavides, Lima.
  [Solo] Demasiado pronto, demasiado tarde, curated by A. Colomo, CC Británico, San Juan de Lurigancho, Lima.
- 2014 [Solo] *Exposición de arte abstracto*, curated by Florencia Portocarrero, Alliance Française, Lima.
- 2013 [Solo] Todo lo sólido, 80M2 Livia Benavides, Lima.

Üniversitesi, Istanbul.

- 2011 [Group] *El último lustro*, curated by L. Lama and D. Flores-Hora, Sala Luis Miro Quesada Garland, Lima.
- 2010 [Group] *Mash-up*, curated by J. Villacorta and J. C. Mariátegui, CC España, Lima.

  [Group] *5th international student triennial*, organized by Marmara

- 2022 XII Concurso Nacional de Pintura Museo Central, BCRP
- 2021 Artist Research Fellowship Cisneros Institute MoMA, New York,
- 2019 (2021) Beca Artus Delfina Foundation, Lima London.
- 2018 I Premio de Arte Contemporáneo ICPNA, Lima. Concurso Nacional Plaza Paz Soldán (teamed with architects A. Román, J. Bauer and J. Caicho), Lima.
- 2017 Residency at Fonderie Darling, Montreal.
- 2014 Residency at Triangle France, Marseille.
- 2013 Residency at La Ene, Buenos Aires.
- 2012 III Concurso Latinoamericano de Pintura Arcos Dorados ArtBA, Buenos Aires. XV Concurso de Artes Visuales Pasaporte para un Artista (3rd prize), Lima.
- Premio de la crítica para la especialidad de pintura, Facultad de Arte-Pontificia
   Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima.
   Premio Adolfo Winternitz para sexto año de Pintura, Facultad de Arte-Pontificia
   Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima.

## **Selected Collections**

MALI, Museo de Arte de Lima; Patricia Phelp de Cisneros Collection, New York / Caracas; Museo Central, Lima; Jorge M. Perez Collection, Miami; Hochschild Collection, Lima; Arcos Dorados Collection, Buenos Aires; ICPNA Collection, Lima; Rebaza Collection, Lima; Sammy Sayago Collection, Los Angeles; Museo Central Peruvian Central Bank, Lima; and others.

## Education

2004 - 2010 Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú – Art Faculty. Art degree with a mention on painting.

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