REVOLVER GALERIA

FIELD OF POWER

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José Carlos Martinat

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Revolver Galería presents *Field of Power*, José Carlos Martinat's first solo exhibition in Houston and his second solo presentation with the gallery in the United States. Born in Lima in 1974, Martinat is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice brings together art, architecture, language, technology, and public space. His work is held in major institutional collections, including The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (MCA), Tate Modern in London, the Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (MALBA), the Museo de Arte de Lima (MALI), the Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo (MAC USP), the Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Sorocaba (MACS), the Museu de Arte do Rio (MAR), the Museu Nacional de Belas Artes (MNBA), and the Sala de Arte Público Siqueiros (SAPS).

Field of Power looks at the city as a living surface where political, social, and historical narratives compete. Martinat extracts paintings, inscriptions, symbols, and materials from urban walls, preserving images that were meant to disappear. Removed from their original sites and placed in the gallery, these fragments retain the marks of time while taking on a new, independent presence. They become palimpsests: material remains of what a society has tried to assert, transform, or forget.

The title carries particular meaning in Houston, home to the Rothko Chapel and closely connected to Mark Rothko's legacy and the Color Field tradition. Martinat moves the idea of the "field" beyond painting and into public space. In his work, city walls become fields of power where images, speeches, and ideologies overlap, disappear, and struggle to remain visible. The exhibition connects Houston's artistic history with a political reading of the surface as a place of memory, conflict, and change.

The works in this exhibition begin with electoral propaganda painted on walls in Lima. Political parties paint over public and private surfaces, often without permission; campaigns overlap and erase one another; some images survive outdoors for years, while others fade with time or are erased by residents sick of them. Behind this visual disorder lies a more lasting structure: in a country that has had nine heads of state between 2016 and 2026, power does not change at the pace of its faces — the same forces negotiate and form alliances in Congress in order to remain. Each work is shown from both sides. On the front, a black field covers the original propaganda and can be viewed as an abstract painting; on the reverse, a surviving letter remains visible. Distributed throughout the gallery, however, the letters no longer form a readable message: the original text has not been destroyed — it has become illegible through separation. What was meant to stay hidden returns on the side that was never intended to be seen.

These works examine covering as a political act. Erasing a slogan does not remove its history; instead, it creates a new image and leaves evidence of an effort to censor, replace, or exclude it from collective memory. What they reveal is not the censorship of a single authority, but a system that continually erases itself: every campaign covers the previous one without ever fully making it disappear — a system that endlessly changes its face so that, underneath, nothing has to change.

Through *Field of Power*, the ruin becomes more than a symbol of destruction or nostalgia. It becomes an active territory where the contradictions of history can be read, and where images continue to survive even after they have been denied.





Extraction Process
Lima, Peru, 2026



Extraction Process
Lima, Peru, 2022



Installation view, Gallery 1

Revolver Galería HTX, Houston, Texas, USA

October 2026



Podemos 2, 2022

Wall extraction

108 1/4 × 133 7/8 in (275 × 340 cm)

Front view



Podemos 2, 2022

Wall extraction

108 1/4 × 133 7/8 in (275 × 340 cm)

Reverse view



Retablo, 2026
Installation view, Main Gallery
Revolver Galería HTX
Houston, Texas, USA
October 2026



Retablo, 2026
Installation view, Main Gallery
Revolver Galería HTX
Houston, Texas, USA
October 2026



Retablo, 2026
Installation view, Main Gallery
Revolver Galería HTX
Houston, Texas, USA
October 2026



Retablo VIII, 2026

Wall extraction

67 3/4 × 62 15/16 in (172.1 × 159.9 cm)

Reverse view



Retablo VIII, 2026

Wall extraction

67 3/4 × 62 15/16 in (172.1 × 159.9 cm)

Front view



Retablo VII, 2026

Wall extraction

62 15/16 × 60 1/4 in (159.9 × 153.0 cm)

Front view



Retablo VII, 2026

Wall extraction

62 15/16 × 60 1/4 in (159.9 × 153.0 cm)

Reverse view



Retablo VI, 2026

Wall extraction

66 15/16 × 63 3/4 in (170 × 162 cm)

Reverse view



Retablo VI, 2026

Wall extraction

66 15/16 × 63 3/4 in (170 × 162 cm)

Front view



Retablo V, 2026

Wall extraction

66 15/16 × 64 3/16 in (170.0 × 163.0 cm)

Front view



Retablo V, 2026

Wall extraction

66 15/16 × 64 3/16 in (170.0 × 163.0 cm)

Reverse view



Retablo IV, 2026

Wall extraction

63 3/4 × 59 13/16 in (161.9 × 151.9 cm)

Reverse view



Retablo IV, 2026

Wall extraction

63 3/4 × 59 13/16 in (161.9 × 151.9 cm)

Front view



Retablo III, 2026

Wall extraction

66 15/16 × 64 15/16 in (170.0 × 164.9 cm)

Front view



Retablo III, 2026

Wall extraction

66 15/16 × 64 15/16 in (170.0 × 164.9 cm)

Reverse view



Retablo II, 2026

Wall extraction

66 15/16 × 64 9/16 in (170.0 × 164.0 cm)

Front view



Retablo II, 2026

Wall extraction

66 15/16 × 64 9/16 in (170.0 × 164.0 cm)

Reverse view



Retablo I, 2026

Wall extraction

66 15/16 × 61 13/16 in (170.0 × 157.0 cm)

Front view



Retablo I, 2026

Wall extraction

66 15/16 × 61 13/16 in (170.0 × 157.0 cm)

Reverse view



Field of Power, 2026
Portrait of the Artist in the Exhibition
Revolver Galería HTX
Houston, Texas, USA
October 2026
Photography: Francisco Ramos

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 Field of Power
Revolver Galería · Houston, Texas, USA

2026 Ruinophilia
Secci Gallery · Milan, Italy

2025 Sueño Bolivariano
Formato Cómodo Gallery · Madrid, Spain

2025 Esencia: Materica
Nasal Gallery · Mexico City, Mexico

2024 Esencia: Artefacto
Revolver Galería · New York, USA

2024 Ruinophilia
Mayoral Gallery · Paris, France

2022 Ruinophilia
Marc Straus Gallery · New York, USA

2019 American Echo Chamber
Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) · Miami, USA

2019 Distractor #4
Fundación Telefónica · Lima, Peru

2017 Infografía del aprendizaje (collaborative work with José Luis Martinat)
Patricia Ready Gallery · Santiago, Chile

2017 Lo que sucede aquí, no se queda aquí
Carmen Araujo Arte Contemporáneo · Caracas, Venezuela

2017 Infografía del aprendizaje (collaborative work with José Luis Martinat)
Revolver Galería · Buenos Aires, Argentina

2017 Art Brussels
Steve Turner Gallery · Brussels, Belgium

2015 Gráfico sagrado
Revolver Galería · Lima, Peru

2015 ¿Cómo explicar lo inexplicable?
Sala Siqueiros · Mexico City, Mexico

2015 José Luis y José Carlos Martinat (collaborative project with Galería Lucía de la Puente and Revolver Galería)
Galería Lucía de la Puente · Lima, Peru

2015 SP-Open Data (façade intervention)
Galeria Leme · São Paulo, Brazil

2014 Pista 1
Revolver Galería · Lima, Peru

2013 Ejercicios superficiales sobre dispositivos de deleite
Galeria Leme · São Paulo, Brazil

2012 Galeria Baginski
Galeria Baginski · Lisbon, Portugal

2011 Panteón (façade intervention)
Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil · Mexico City, Mexico

2010 Ejercicios de sustracción para distracción
Revolver Galería · Lima, Peru

2010 Monumentos vandalizables
Museo de Arte de Lima (MALI) · Lima, Peru

2010 Perú ejercicios para galería
Galería Ignacio Liprandi · Buenos Aires, Argentina

2010 Ejercicios superficiales
Galeria Leme · São Paulo, Brazil

2000 Casa (domestic-space intervention)
Lima · Peru

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 Simbología del Rastro
Galería del Paseo · Uruguay

2025 Bienal de Bogotá: Arte y Ciudad
Bogotá · Colombia

2024 Radicalment Singulars
Mayoral Gallery · Barcelona, Spain

2024 Acto de fe
Nasal Gallery · Mexico City, Mexico

2024 Ride the Lightning
Revolver Galería · New York, USA

2024 Track Oblivion
Mayoral Gallery · Barcelona, Spain

2023 En busca de lo invisible
Revolver Galería · New York, USA

2023 Desire Is a Spiral
Revolver Galería · New York, USA

2022 High Priestess
Revolver Galería · Lima, Peru

2022 That Little Thing That Counts
Nosco Gallery · Brussels, Belgium

2022 Leme NFT Collection
Galeria Leme · São Paulo, Brazil

2021 Le contraddizioni della fragilità
Secci Gallery · Florence, Italy

2021 Janelas para dentro
Galeria Leme + Central Gallery · São Paulo, Brazil

2021 Imaginarios contemporáneos Vol. I y Vol. II
Museo de Arte de Lima (MALI) · Lima, Peru

2020 Non Space
Revolver Galería · Peru

2019 Prometemos no despertar nunca (in collaboration with José Luis Martinat)
Nosco Gallery · Marseille, France

2019 Time for Change
El Espacio 23 · Miami, USA

2019 Distractor #4
Fundación Telefónica · Lima, Peru

2019 Crónicas migrantes: Historias comunes entre Perú y Venezuela
Museo de Arte Contemporáneo del Perú · Lima, Peru

2019 Soy la casa que ladra
Madrid · Spain

2019 En orden de aparición: arte peruano y latinoamericano de la colección Hochschild
Real Academia de San Fernando · Madrid, Spain

2019 Sin crónicas: Horizontes del arte peruano desde el coleccionismo
El Instante Fundación · Madrid, Spain

2018 Más viejo que Satanás
Galería Germán Krüger Espantoso, ICPNA · Lima, Peru

2018 Extracción
Nosco Gallery · Marseille, France

2018 Cambio de materia
Lamb Gallery · London, UK

2018 Rumicolqa: El despertar de una cantera
Museo de la Nación · Lima, Peru

2017 Paisaje infinito
Revolver Galería · Buenos Aires, Argentina

2017 Final de partida
Sagrada Mercancía · Santiago, Chile

2017 Monumentos, anti-monumentos y nueva escultura pública (curated by Pablo León de la Barra)
Museo de Arte de Zapopan (MAZ) · Guadalajara, Mexico

2017 Muestra grupal Revolver Lima
Revolver Galería · Lima, Peru

2017 Cómo leer el Pato Pascual: Disney's Latin America y Latin America's Disney (curated by Jesse Lerner and Rubén Ortiz-Torres; Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA)
Los Angeles · USA

2017 Próxima parada: artistas peruanos en la colección Hochschild
Sala Alcalá 31 · Madrid, Spain

2017 En Box: Nuevas Adquisiciones
Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) · New York, USA

2016 Totemonumento
Galeria Leme · São Paulo, Brazil

2016 Hacer la audición: Antológica de arte sonoro en el Perú
Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Lima · Lima, Peru

2016 ¡Basta!
John Jay College of Criminal Justice · New York, USA

2016 Publicar sin facturas: Muros públicos como estudio y fuente
Neuberger Museum of Art · Purchase, USA

2016 Lo real absoluto
Revolver Galería · Lima, Peru

2016 Bienal de Cuenca: Impermanencia, la mutación del arte contemporáneo
Cuenca · Ecuador

2015 Gabinete
ArteBA · Buenos Aires, Argentina

2015 XII Bienal de La Habana
Havana · Cuba

2015 X Bienal do Mercosul
Porto Alegre · Brazil

2014 Pangaea: New Art from Africa and Latin America
Saatchi Gallery · London, UK

2014 Dixit, ArteBA 2014
Buenos Aires · Argentina

2014 Art Basel Miami Beach - Public
Miami Beach, Florida, USA

2014 Brutalismo (collection exhibition)
Tate Modern · London, UK

2014 Panteón (façade intervention)
Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil · Mexico City, Mexico

2014 Difracción
Arróniz Arte Contemporáneo · Mexico City, Mexico

2013 Plata
Revolver Galería · Lima, Peru

2013 Ruinas al revés
Tate Modern · London, UK

2013 Centro Ciudad-Diankou: Lima, Palermo
Fondazione Gervasuti · Venice, Italy

2013 Mente sospechosa
Galeria Vermelho · São Paulo, Brazil

2013 Ruinas al revés
Museo de Arte de Lima (MALI) · Lima, Peru

2013 Somos Libres
MATE · Lima, Peru

2012 Modificar según sea necesario
Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) · Miami, USA

2012 Bienal Internacional EV+A
Limerick · Ireland

2012 9th Shanghai Biennale: City Pavilions
Shanghai · China

2012 The Collaborative: Moola
Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) · Los Angeles, USA

2011 Bruma
20 Hoxton Square Gallery · London, UK

2011 Colección de arte contemporáneo del Museo de Arte de Lima
Pinacoteca de São Paulo · São Paulo, Brazil

2011 Brutalismo (collection exhibition)
Tate Modern · London, UK

2011 Difracción
Arróniz Arte Contemporáneo · Mexico City, Mexico

2010 El fin del principio
Patricia Ready Gallery · Santiago, Chile

2010 Pasaporte para un artista
CCPUC · Lima, Peru

2010 Pasaporte para un artista
Alianza Francesa · Piura, Peru

2010 Pruebas de artista
ICPNA · Lima, Peru

2010 Biennale de Noord-Holland (project with Marjolijn Dijkman)
Noord-Holland · Netherlands

2010 Resitrante SESC Pinheiros
SESC Pinheiros · São Paulo, Brazil

2010 Nuevas adquisiciones
Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (MALBA) · Buenos Aires, Argentina

2010 El fin del comienzo
Patricia Ready Gallery · Santiago, Chile

2009 II Trienal Poli/Gráfica de San Juan: América Latina y el Caribe
San Juan · Puerto Rico

2009 Miceforce
Museo Raúl Anguiano · Mexico City, Mexico

2009 Restricción-restricción
Toronto · Canada

2009 Festival de Arte Electrónico Transitio
Mexico City · Mexico

2009 Bienal do Mercosul
Porto Alegre · Brazil

2008 Construcción del lugar común
Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Lima (MAC) · Lima, Peru

2008 Tener lugar
Fundación Telefónica · Lima, Peru

2008 Noche en Blanco
Lima · Peru

2007 Emergentes: La Laboral (traveling exhibition)
Madrid · Spain

INSTITUTIONAL COLLECTIONS

Museo de Arte de Lima (MALI)
Lima, Peru

Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (MALBA)
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo (MAC USP)
São Paulo, Brazil

Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Sorocaba (MACS)
Sorocaba, Brazil

Museu de Arte do Rio (MAR)
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Museu Nacional de Belas Artes (MNBA)
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Sala de Arte Público Siqueiros (SAPS)
Mexico City, Mexico

The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)
New York, USA

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
New York, USA

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (MCA)
Chicago, USA

Tate Modern
London, UK