

Miguel Soler-Roig

by Oliver Orest Tschirky

Miguel Soler-Roig is a conceptual artist and perfectionist photographer. Following his thoughts and beliefs, he carefully selects, elaborates and develops the concepts of his photographic series. His objective as a photographer is not so much to search for the decisive moment as to work on a conceptual base and sophisticated compositions. With his images, he investigates the ideas behind things, focusing his attention on the consciousness of life and memories, especially those of his youth. The resulting series of images are like extracts from an ongoing story, frozen in time, like the symbolic Spanish still lifes of the 17th century or a storyboard from a film. Aesthetically he is very selective, makes few captures, only allows certain locations, uses natural light, an adequate perspective and does not elaborate the final image in postproduction. Through this elaborate scenography, framing and lighting, he emphasizes the control of the scene and the social landscape. His photographs are neither documentaries nor fictitious, but a synthesis of narrative and biographical elements. Therefore, his works are like an intensive school of seeing, because their purpose is neither only the visual nor the fictitious, but the spectator's sensation achieved through ambiguous perception. Thanks to the touching emotions of his images, the viewer begins to believe that they can be part of their memories or be part of a previous life.

Miguel Soler-Roig is a philosopher, walking through the world with his eyes and senses wide open. His field of study are the echos or more precisely, the nostalgia and tacit identity, the individuality and consciousness of the human being. This nostalgia describes a longing for past and many other un-lived experiences. Because art always flies over our existence, Miguel Soler-Roig pursues to make it visible the essence of life. He builds a statement from the memories of his childhood, based on the desire for harmony and order, allusions to a collective memory, halfway between happiness, charm and oblivion. With the lasting captures of consciousness, memories and reverie, he invents a symbolic transition between past and future to improve the present, selecting and idealizing his memories to make life more habitable. His belief in positive, reflective and individual freedom makes him dream of a better world: harmony, humanity, eternal values and -of course- nostalgia as an element of connection. As a world citizen and humanist, he acclimatizes to any environment, lives together with different cultures and speaks somehow all languages, as if he had experienced the Grand Tour. A restless thinker, he analyses our time, the world, the society and the own, in a reflective and responsible way, always with the intention of sharing and giving to the audience a positive stimulus. As an artist, he is able to bring out the best even from the adverse; he takes advantage on crisis to trigger creativity and the foundations for phoenix. In his beginnings, he was a graphic designer and communicator of ideas. As a creator, he captures the fleeting reflections of the moment, involves history and meaning, synchronizes the past with the present, creates nostalgia in a positive sense without regrets, and makes us involved witnesses - here and now in front of his artworks.

Miguel Soler-Roig is, above all, a contemporary artist. Why? Because great artists are sensors and mirrors. This means that they observe the world, extract with sensitivity the elementary aspects and possess the impulse and the professional means necessary to express the reflections and transmit them to others. Great art does not have an implicit purpose or a specific function, but it nourishes our thoughts and senses, expands our perspectives and knowledge, enriches our minds. And great works of art touch our *raison d'être* and can never be understood conclusively. Miguel Soler-Roig perfectly fulfills all three conditions. To do so, he generates narratives halfway between reality and fiction, transforms personal, subjective and intimate perspectives into common consciousness, materializes his concerns in photographic series and presents them through international exhibitions. Furthermore, photography is said to be the art of our time because it records the human condition with greater accuracy and speed than any other artistic medium. In this sense, Miguel Soler-Roig's conceptual sequences leave the field of pure visibility, document moments from his past, recur to reminiscences from another era to build the future and make us apprehend human perception and psychological states. With his capacities Miguel Soler-Roig is capable of capturing sensations, portraying consciousness about life and nostalgia, stimulating the memories of the memory even, like his current ongoing project, documenting the nostalgic memory of his life before birth.