

# DE PONT MUSEUM

## SEBASTIÁN DÍAZ MORALES

*Miles marchan (Thousands March)*

3 December 2022 - 5 February 2023

NEW VIDEO INSTALLATION IN PROJECT SPACE WOOL



*Still from: Miles marchan (Thousands March), 2021, Sebastián Díaz Morales.*

From 3 December, De Pont will present the video installation *Miles marchan (Thousands March)* by the Argentinian artist Sebastián Díaz Morales. This summer, the artist made a notable contribution to documenta fifteen in the form of the video *Smashing Monuments*, which he created in cooperation with members of the ruangrupa collective. The 60-minute film for the video installation *Miles marchan*, on the other hand, was created during and around the time of various COVID lockdowns and the editing was completed last year. Now, it will make its debut on a ten-metre-wide screen in De Pont.

Calm, stamping, waiting and then moving forward again with determined tread: in the film *Miles marchan (Thousands March)*, thousands of legs flow past you in an impressive current of varying rhythms. Young legs, old legs, bare legs, legs shrouded in hosiery or denim, atop sandals or sneakers. Legs that Díaz Morales filmed at pavement level. Faceless legs, yet all of them in motion and all in pursuit of a singular goal - though you never learn what it is.

From the protests in Iran to the demonstrations against climate change and the war in Ukraine, the protest march as a means of decrying injustice and calling for change now seems more relevant than ever. But for Díaz Morales, who grew up seeing images of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo protesting in Buenos Aires, this kind of march has

a historical significance as well. With *Miles marchan (Thousands March)*, the artist creates a portrait of the protest march as an entity. It is a portrait of a multitude, of countless individuals who temporarily come together as one being, animated by a singular collective energy – a portrait compiled from footage of various demonstrations in which the focus lies not on the individual, or on their faces and slogans, but on the movement of the whole. The resulting imagery is equal parts poetry and activism, walking a fine line between fiction and reality.

The soundtrack reinforces this impression. To create it, Díaz Morales collaborated with the South African composer and sound artist Philip Miller (who frequently acts as a creative partner for another South African artist, William Kentridge). The audio track is by turns abstract and realistic, tranquil and rousing, moving along with the rhythm of the throng that seems to stride on forever. Meanwhile, Díaz Morales himself avoids asserting an opinion. He is interested primarily in the idea and the necessity of change. By deconstructing and reassembling the masses, as it were, he shapes a new image of reality.



*Still from: Miles marchan (Thousands March), 2021, Sebastián Díaz Morales.*

*Miles marchan (Thousands March), 2021*

Single-channel video installation with 5.1 surround sound

60 minutes

soundscape by Philip Miller

courtesy of the artist and carlier | gebauer, Berlin and Madrid

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## About the artist

Sebastián Díaz Morales was born in Comodoro Rivadavia, Argentina in 1975. He lives and works in Amsterdam. He attended the Universidad del Cine in Buenos Aires, Argentina (1993-1999), the Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten in Amsterdam (2000-2001) and Le Fresnoy in Roubaix, France (2003-2004). Díaz Morales' worldview

was shaped by the living conditions and landscape of his hometown, Comodoro Rivadavia. This industrial city on the coast lies in the rugged terrain between the Atlantic Ocean and the desert of southern Argentina. From the very first frame, his depiction of reality through film – whether that is the reality of the landscape or urban life, or even the socio-political reality – is characterised by a fundamental distrust toward the belief in an objective reality. For Díaz Morales, the camera functions not as a medium for faithfully visualising and recording the object of one's perception, but as an essential, even epistemological, means of challenging and taking ownership of reality itself.

Díaz Morales has exhibited his work at Tate Modern, London; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam; de Appel, Amsterdam; Le Fresnoy, Roubaix; CAC, Vilnius; Art in General, New York; Ludwig Museum, Budapest; the São Paulo Art Biennial; the Biennale of Sydney; Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona; Mudam, Luxembourg; Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon; the Venice Biennale and documenta fifteen.

His works can be found in the permanent collections of Centre Pompidou, Paris; Tate Modern, London; Fundación Jumex, Mexico City; Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin; Fundación Costantini, Buenos Aires; Pinault Collection, Paris; Sammlung Goetz, Munich; and Fundação de Arte Moderna e Contemporânea, Museu Coleção Berardo, Lisbon.

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*Miles marchan (Thousands March)* will be open to the public from 3 December. A press preview will be held on 1 December; those interested may contact: [pressoffice@depont.nl](mailto:pressoffice@depont.nl)

Visual materials for publication can be found in our [digital press folder](#).

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See our [website](#) for up-to-date information

**Opening hours of De Pont Museum:**

Tuesday through Sunday: 11 am-5 pm

Thursday: **free** admission from 5 pm-9 pm

Wilhelminapark 1, Tilburg

[www.depont.nl](http://www.depont.nl)

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De Pont Museum, 22 November 2022