Andrés Monzón - The Icon and The Pall.

My current project consists in the partial obliteration of subjects that are symbolic or fundamental to the construction of a cultural identity. Examples of these are memorabilia, cultural or religious figures (including mythological, folkloric, historical, or artistic icons), and prehistoric or ancient artifacts that aid in the invention of an ancestral identity. By using existing sources such as photographs, found objects, and video stills, I mean to intervene inside a sort of history in order to talk about how collective memory functions.

The icon and the pall as process: The subject, or *icon* is displayed in its physical form or represented in a standard academic (painting or otherwise) style. Part of it is veiled by glaze or covered by thick smothering paint reminiscent of petroleum in viscosity and of nail polish in color. This latter process constitutes an obliteration or cosmetic layer referred to as *the pall*.

The selection of subjects and the way they are treated is based on my own personal background, and loosely on the theory of performavity.[*] I intend for the work to speak of memory as an ever-changing performative construct mainly in two ways: First, as the constant beautification of the past, referent to idealism's role in nostalgia; and second, as the deliberate omission or destruction of the past. I understand object making as a construction or reconstruction of memory, and I regard memory as a performative process. Therefore, I am not interested in creating, but merely in updating, revisiting, recycling, etc. subjects that already exist and have their own history. In choosing to work from these icons or artifacts, I purposefully revoke the conception that creativity and originality are essential elements to the creation of art, and revert attention to adaptation.

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[*] Philosopher Judith Butler developed on J. L. Austin's theory of performativity, arguing that individuals enact identity in a process of rehearsal and performance that is based on social normal habits.