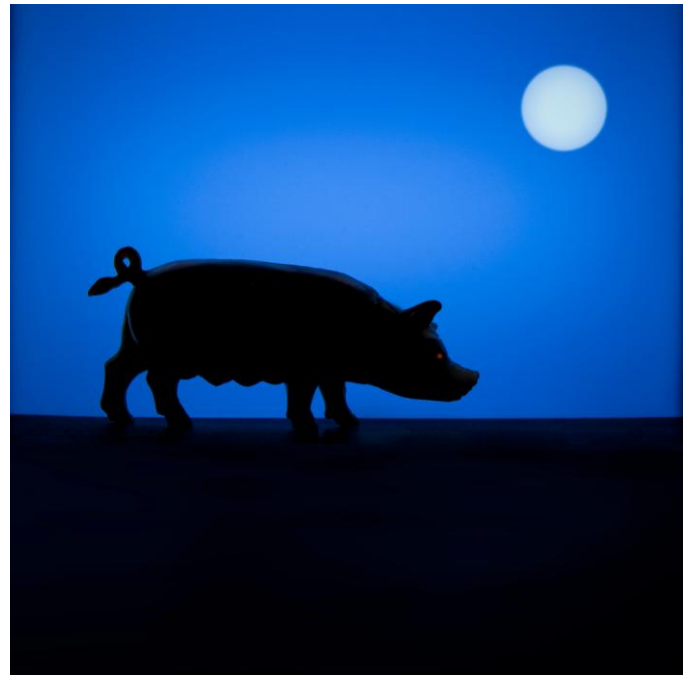


It could be a picture taken immediately after an apocalyptic event, or right before the birth of a new world. There's something we cannot understand, that has just happened or is about to be unleashed in these surroundings of tense calmness, which dazzle us for their beauty and make us unsteady as well.

Far from the bucolic scenes where men and their buildings, the tamed landscape and animals live together in harmony, Juan Pablo Cheret's images show us the strange relationship among heterogeneous kingdoms. Animals seem to have come from a different place and entered into an unknown environment. House lights, instead of announcing human presence, create a sense of sudden exodus, with no apparent reason.



© Juan Pablo Cheret. *Untitled*, from "Intruders" Series 2007

If the author is describing the end of one world and the beginning of another, he has chosen the precise moment in which this transition is covered with uncertain signs. We tend to consider that the substitution of one dominant culture for another can only be achieved by means of the explicit iconography of conquests and revolutions. Cheret offers a more complex description, where the drama of mankind history takes place in longer periods of time, through the slow accumulation of infinitesimal details.

Clearly, sense is built by visual language. Beyond the technique used (Cheret has created these scenes on his workshop table, with plastic toys, color papers and different lights) we could ask ourselves about the kind of image the artist has been searching for. There's a persistent feature: the tension between beauty and mystery, between a plain and smoothly designed background and dark silhouettes, and the feeling of intriguing emptiness; in other words, the supernatural seems to be happening naturally...

*(Excerpt) - Text: Valeria González, Ph.D.*

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