

# palmer gallery

Exhibition 07

**TRASH/VALUE**

17.01.25 - 22.02.25

Private View:

Thursday 16th January, 6-9pm

**Albano  
Hernández**

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Palmer Gallery is pleased to present *Trash/Value*, an exhibition that delves into the intricate relationship between consumerism and sustainability, questioning how objects are attributed worth in a world shaped by disposability. With an aesthetic influenced by the meat industry, Hernández's practice is rooted in his upbringing in Ávila, Spain - a region strongly connected to agriculture and meat production. This cultural and economic backdrop influences his distinctive hybrid works that are produced using a meat slicer to cut fragments of clay and repurposed materials. Layering each slice meticulously, Hernández creates compositions that challenge traditional categorizations of artistic media and blur the boundaries between painting, sculpture and installation.

At its core, *Trash/Value* views discarded materials, or "trash," as a vehicle for memory and meaning. Through slicing, reassembling, and upcycling, Hernández reimagines waste as a medium for renewal and storytelling, reclaiming it as a resource with inherent artistic and creative value. A key installation in the exhibition is *Anonymous*, a work composed of 315 plastic ear tags, traditionally used to track livestock. Arranged to outline the form of a graph, the installation visualizes the dramatic rise in meat production over the past seventy years, a trend with significant environmental and agricultural consequences. These mass-produced tags serve as the sole physical record of the animals they represent, transforming them into haunting symbols of memory and erasure. Hernández describes this work as an "anonymous cemetery," where each tag becomes a tangible trace of a life simultaneously shaped and erased by the meat production system. Elevated to the realm of art, the tags draw attention to society's tendency to neglect and undervalue objects, places and lifeforms which are easily discarded.



Detail from *P23.02*, 2024, air dry clay and waste materials on woodboard



Detail from *Anonymous*, 2024, cattle tag installation

Elsewhere, Hernández's rotating sculpture, *Desire*, provides a humorous edge to his examination of consumption and commodification. Resembling a kebab, a gyros or a schwarma, the spinning structure prompts viewers to confront their own relationship with consumption, exploring how personal desires fuel broader systems of value and disposability. Hernández's multi-disciplinary works frequently embody a circular economy of reuse, most evident in his paper works which are made from the waste clay generated from his hybrid paintings. These pieces underscore the interconnectedness of his creative process and his commitment to sustainability. The tactile and visual relationship between these materials invites viewers to reconsider waste - not as something disposable but as a resource with the potential to be transformed into something meaningful, beautiful, and valuable. It thus challenges conventional ideas of value and materiality, showing how discarded materials can be given new life through artistic intervention.

Overall, *Trash/Value* offers a thought-provoking exploration of the intersections between art, sustainability, and systems of production and consumption. By transforming discarded materials into compelling multi-disciplinary works, Hernández challenges traditional notions of value and invites viewers to reconsider their relationship with waste.

*"The politics of junk is complex and contested: it is tied up with social and cultural histories and with economies and ecologies of human and consumer waste."*

Excerpt from 'Junk: Art and the Politics of Trash' an essay by Gillian Whiteley.

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## About Albano Hernandez

Albano (b. 1988) graduated from the Royal College of Art in 2022 (MA Painting) and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Complutense University of Madrid, UCM. The Basil H. Alkazzi Scholarship Award sponsored his studies at the RCA, where he was awarded a distinction and won the Hine Painting Prize 2022. In 2012 Albano won the BMW Painting Prize and the Obra Abierta Award three years later.

His work is part of public and private collections such as the University of Cambridge (UK), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (Spain), College of Spain in Paris (France), José Saramago Foundation (Portugal), António Prates Foundation (Portugal), Iturria Foundation (Uruguay), Ankaria Foundation (Spain), Ars Citerior Collection (Spain), National Library of Spain, BMW Ibérica (Spain-Portugal), Venancio Blanco Foundation (Spain), and UBS Europe SE (Spain).

Albano has recently exhibited at Frieze Sculpture (UK), Art Basel (HK), Pi Artworks Gallery (UK), Pippy Houldsworth Gallery (UK), Salvador Victoria Museum (Spain), Collège d'Espagne (France), Fundación Iturria (Uruguay), and the University of Cambridge (UK).



*Desire, 2022, air dry clay, acrylic, pigment, waste materials, wood, glass, steel, and electrical turntable, 60 x 25 x 30 cm*

## About Palmer Gallery

Founded by Lucas Giles and Will Hainsworth in 2024, Palmer Gallery is a space dedicated to identifying and developing the strongest emerging artistic talent of today. The gallery programme focuses on cross-disciplinary artists working across painting, sculpture, video, performance, light and sound installation, creating an immersive exhibition space. This multi-sensory approach embraces a holistic view of contemporary art while championing an institutional dedication to framing and contextualising complex artistic practices. Palmer Gallery's core mission is to allow artists to express themselves and thrive in an open, supportive and experimental environment; fostering a culture of creative freedom and connection among the gallery's artists and the wider community.

The gallery is situated in London's Lisson Grove, in a 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> former-factory built in the 1920's by the Palmer Tyre Company, who produced parts for the Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster Bombers during The Second World War.

## Contact Us

For further press information and high-res images please email: [contact@palmergallery.co.uk](mailto:contact@palmergallery.co.uk)

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