

PRESS RELEASE

EUGENIO MERINO

WHITE WASHING

24 July – 13 September 2026

Peter Frey Gallery, Salzburg

Peter Frey Gallery is pleased to present **WHITE WASHING**, the first exhibition by Spanish artist **Eugenio Merino** in Salzburg. Opening during the Salzburg Festival summer season (Salzburger Festspiele), the exhibition brings together recent works exploring political power, historical memory, and the mechanisms through which public narratives are constructed and legitimized.

The exhibition opens on **Thursday, 23 July 2026**, from **18:00 –21:00**. The opening speech will be given by **Séamus Kealy**, Director of the Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin.

At the centre of the exhibition is *WHITE WASHING*, installation examining the normalization of far-right political discourse. An industrial dishwasher containing porcelain plates printed with portraits of prominent political figures becomes a metaphor for the processes through which extremist ideologies are cleaned, legitimized, and absorbed into mainstream public life. Characteristic of Merino's practice, the work combines irony with political critique, addressing the role of media, institutions, and collective memory in shaping contemporary democratic societies.

Eugenio Merino's work explores the discourses of political and economic power, with a particular focus on human rights, historical memory, and the social consequences of authoritarianism. In recent years, his artistic practice has examined the legacy of the Franco dictatorship and its continuing impact on contemporary Spanish society.

His work has been exhibited internationally at institutions and biennials including the **15th Cuenca Biennial** (Ecuador), **Riga Quadrennial** (Latvia), **Kunstverein Wiesbaden, Halle 14** (Leipzig), **WhiteBox** (New York), **Les Abattoirs** (Toulouse), **B.P.S.22** (Charleroi), **Station Museum of Contemporary Art** (Houston), and **MOCA Taipei**. He has also participated in major international art fairs including **ARCO Madrid**, **VOLTA**, **Art Brussels**, **FIAC Paris**, **ARTBO Bogotá**, and **ZONAMACO** (Mexico City). His work has been featured in publications including *El Arte de Invocar la Memoria* (2024) by Esther López Barceló, *Art & Agenda* (Gestalten), *Arte Español Contemporáneo 1992–2013* by Rafael Doctor, and *Arte Emergente en España* (2006) by Manuela Villa.

Presented during one of Europe's leading cultural seasons, **WHITE WASHING** marks Eugenio Merino's debut exhibition in Salzburg and introduces his practice to Austrian audiences through a selection of works that address some of the defining political and social questions of our time.

Vernissage

Thursday, 23 July 2026

18:00 –21:00

Opening words by **Séamus Kealy**
Director, Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin

The artist will be present.

Exhibition

24 July – 13 September 2026

Peter Frey Gallery

Erhard-Platz 3
5020 Salzburg, Austria

Opening Hours

Monday – Friday: 11:00 am–6:30 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am–2:00 pm

During the Salzburg Festival (Salzburger Festspiele): Saturday until 4:00 pm

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