

# Y Gallery

Augusto Yayiko

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## **ONCE UPON A TIME: A Mochica Princess...**

**Jorge Gonzales San Miguel**

September 22<sup>nd</sup>- October 14<sup>th</sup>

Opening reception: September 21<sup>st</sup>

Y Gallery is proud to present "Once upon a time: A Mochica Princess..." by Jorge Gonzales San Miguel, a Peruvian artist whose paintings, infused with a very sharp irony, are populated by decidedly recognizable characters in very idyllic settings. This bizarre fusion of beloved children's characters such as Cinderella, Snow White or Goldilocks and the remote iconography of pre-Columbian Mochica culture is the result of a lengthy process that included both investigation and experimentation within the realms of contemporary figurative painting.

With formal training at the renowned Universidad Católica in Lima, Gonzales San Miguel's body of work has patiently developed over the last decade to achieve a rigorous pictorial technique, one that paired with his insightful study of pre-Inca Peruvian iconographies has produced "Once upon a time: A Mochica Princess..." his acclaimed first solo exhibition now presented in New York.

Substituting the most identifiable features of well-known western cartoon figures with those of apparently exotic personages from pre-Inca cultures, this visual artist has meticulously concocted a strong graphic cocktail that speaks volumes about both Peruvian and Latin American idiosyncrasy: the latent desire to look like foreigners has turned people from this region into tourists in their own territory, renouncing to their own peculiar characteristics has inevitably and unconsciously brought back issues about domination (economical, racial, cultural and otherwise).

The female characters in "Once upon a time: A Mochica Princess..." seem fairly at ease in costumes and surroundings that are certainly alien to their supposedly proud heritage. This is certainly one of the strongest features of these paintings and drawings: how they sardonically question the very nature of regional identities by merely placing together the two worlds that have forever coexisted yet no one thought about putting them together.

Y Gallery is pleased to introduce the work of artist Jorge Gonzales San Miguel in an exhibition curated by Jano Cortijo and Cecilia Jurado, on display from September 22<sup>nd</sup> to October 14<sup>th</sup> during our regular office hours (Wednesday to Sunday, 12 – 7 pm).

Jorge Gonzales San Miguel was born in Chimbote, Perú. He graduated from the Art Faculty at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú in the year 2000. His work has been included in important group exhibitions throughout Peru and is also in the permanent collection of the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Lima, LI-MAC. In 2001 he presented a two-person show with Lucía Wong, "La sonrisa contenida" (The restrained smile) at Centro Cultural Ricardo Palma in Lima, and in 2003 he presented his first solo exhibition Déjame que te cuente (Once upon a time) at Galería La Oficina in Trujillo and Galería Punctum in Lima. He currently lives and works in Lima

*\*Fomenting the dialogue among other areas of the city Y Gallery stimulates the process of decentralization of the art galleries and institutions in New York.*

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