



Revelacions 11, 2017, graphite powder on paper, 58 x 72,5 cm (22¹³/₁₆ x 28⁹/₁₆ in)

November 15, 2022 to March 10, 2023

The image of a burning car is a prime example of a limit situation

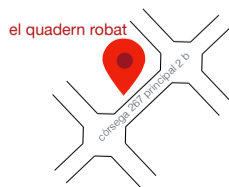
Limit situations are those in which no measure allows them to be resolved. In the existential philosophy of Carl Jaspers, the human being reaches his own limits through the experience of suffering, guilt, destiny, the havoc caused by unsuccessful struggles and lack of trust in the world. Jaspers was the first to use this concept in philosophical terms in 1919, and since then -in fact throughout the entire history of humanity-, the human being has had to go through countless extreme situations, and it is in this traffic that changes can occur, either advances or setbacks. Thomas Hobbes, in his *Leviathan*, laid out the foundations of the modern state. A state where civil law governs society to exercise control, but the right of some contradicts that of others, which inevitably leads to conflict. Society, based on competition and exclusion, seeks to maintain cohesion through a police state that defends private interests above all else, disintegrating community ties. Undoubtedly, the image of a car on fire is a prime example of an extreme situation: cars were burned in France in the riots of 1981 in the suburbs of Lyon, and in the social riots of 2005, which began in Paris and quickly spread to other cities in Europe. But beyond that, the image of a car on fire is a symbol capable of changing our state of mind and placing us immediately in a danger zone, in the awareness of having reached a limit situation.

The system uses the violence it generates to justify and perpetuate itself

Precisely, the protagonists of **Toni Giró's Revelations** series are cars on fire. It is an unpublished series, made between 2013 and 2019. Giró stands on the edge of the abyss, absorbed in an image that repulses him, but in turn irrevocably attracts him. It is about the seduction of the dark side, which, using perverse mechanisms, makes people condemn the burning of cars, but do not question the facts that have caused it. And this is the perversion of the system, which uses the violence it generates to justify itself and therefore perpetuate itself. For this reason, in this series of drawings, technique and themes merge: the chiaroscuro that he achieves by working the graphite powder with his hands, rags or erasers, underlines the moral ambiguity of the effects of extreme situations. They are drawings that do not describe but interpret.

Toni Giró (Barcelona, 1966) has a degree in Fine Arts from the University of Barcelona. His work has been seen in Barcelona, Berlin, Copenhagen, Prague, Madrid, Montpellier, New York and Valencia, among other cities. Among his most recent exhibitions we highlight *Nothing is possible, everything moves* at the Reus Reading Center (Tarragona), and *The absolute obsolete* at Can Manyé, Art and Creation Space, Alella (Barcelona) in progress from November 4, 2022.

The exhibition will be open from November 15, 2022 to January 28, 2023. For more information, contact the gallery: info@elquadernrobot.com or 93 368 36 72
elquadernrobot.com, còrsega, 267, main floor 2 b, 08008 barcelona



el quadern robot

