

NICHOLÉ VELÁSQUEZ



Nicholé Velásquez,

Constructing The Tower Of Babel (With Crane) IV (2012), C-Print, vintage Artist Print, Unique Multiple Exposed Composition on Negative Film, 45 x 30 cm

Courtesy of the MOMENTUM Collection

Part of the Diptych *ECB (A Language of Money)*

ARTIST STATEMENT:

These days, subversion from above appears to be a bigger threat than revolution from below. In contrast to revolution, subversion takes effect noiselessly. It undermines existing structures and replaces them with new values. The term values is, of course, applied quite non-prejudicially

here. Perhaps the most subversive element of our times consists of the sort of money which acts in obscurity, its effects remaining invisible, yet its power holds a far bigger sway over our destinies than any government ever could. Important financial locations are traditionally marked by high-rising banking towers. They are the aesthetic crystallisation of the power of money as the quintessential “value form” (Karl Marx).

My diptych *ECB (A Language of Money)* is a record of the ECB in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, under construction. The diptych was taken in several analog multiple exposures, thus condensing the process of raising the building into something that takes on an uncanny resemblance to the tower of Babel as we’ve come to know it through the elder Pieter Bruegel’s famous painting. With multiple exposure technique you ostensibly achieve highly atmospheric and poetical compositions; but here it unleashes a subversive potential, which – with its multiple layers of juxtaposed images – subtly and cannily transforms the bank building into the biblical epitome of disdainfulness and tyranny. Building the tower, of course, resulted in the great Babylonian confusion.

- Nicholé Velásquez

ARTIST BIO: www.develasquez.com | [@de.velasquez](https://www.instagram.com/de.velasquez)

Nicholé Velásquez (born 1986 in New York, USA. Lives and works in Berlin, Germany.)

Introduced to art by Rika Burnham at the Met, Nicholé Velásquez continued developing his visual art as a Jocelyn Benzakin fellow at the International Center for Photography in 2005. 2018 he was laureate of Le Prix Industries et Cultures / Art Faber – awarded for his decades long depictions of just-in-time industrial processes. Alongside his art, Nicholé has worked as curatorial assistant at the Bumiller Collection from 2017 to 2020 and developed the first curatorial fellowship at Otte1 in 2023. At Otte1 he curated intergenerational dialogues with a focus on feminist programming, for example, inviting Astrid Proll to share her journey in art after incarceration in 1970s West Germany.

In 2024 Velásquez assisted Richard Villani in production for the Tom of Finland Foundation’s 40th anniversary Arts and Culture Festival held at Halle am Berghain. He then led the Queer Art Bridges at we are village in Berlin, with curatorial focus on instinct #16 La Part Maudite, instinct #17 AIDS memorial and the introductory presentation of instinct.berlin artist in residence Jasper J Mauer. Nicholé is an active member of the BBK and IKG (Internationales Künstlergremium) and regularly participates with the Fourth Wall community since the 2019 exhibition ‘Where do you wash your laundry’.