



*How many times have you
written your dead's names?*

Santiago Casal

How many times have you written your dead's names?

Exploring the painful memory, the one that pricks the memory, that way of remembering the dead, one's own, the loved ones, the hurtful ones, the ones that left this plane and are stored in the constant memory, is an invitation to enter a space where the sense of losing is present, and that same sense becomes a collective fact, where all of us present are transiting/remembering a loss. This exhibition is an invitation to enter into a ritual, a space where the memory of the dead and the magical encounter of invoking them are intertwined.

This journey was born out of my admiration for the cemeteries of Northern Argentina, especially the one in Humahuaca, in the province of Jujuy, 'Cementerio San Antonio'. It was in this space that I was able to record with the greatest certainty, I was called by the way of passing through death and the celebration of it, but with a joyful memory. In this space converge the demolished, the deteriorated, the new, the old, the contrasts, the saturated colours, the irregular shapes, the arid, the simple, the excessive, the spontaneous, the constant heat, the dry wind, the drought, the dust, the living image, the presence of pain and its celebration come together to generate this type of emblems that are the cemeteries of the North.

The exhibition has six series of photographs mounted on walls, in this case, in the first montage we have walls of worn and ruined textures, this propitiated this set of images to be linked with the textures and colours that predominate in the cemeteries of the North of Argentina. The series of photographs are entitled **Diosito (Little God, Paisaje, Casa deconstruida, Cruz, Nicho Grande and Retratos**. At the same time there is a writing device where each person can write the name of their dead, on this occasion we have a window, inviting the audience to write with the question **"How many times have you written the name of your dead?"** Completing the exhibition, an **"Altar"** with candles, flowers, photos, objects, stones; also a collective space, where the assistants can light a candle, leave an object or an offering, pray, invoke or just contemplate. With all of this, the idea is to generate a montage where the aesthetics of these cemeteries envelop the circumstances conducive to generating a ritual of respect for the absent. These series mostly have photographs specifically located in the cemetery mentioned above, but at the same time it has records of details, situations and cuttings of the northern landscape, it also has photos of another type of cemetery located in my hometown, Laguna Paiva, province of Santa Fe, Argentina.

How many times have you written your dead's names?

I want attendees to be able to walk through the images and allow themselves to reconnect with their sensitive memories, those about whom they exist in our words, stories and tears. I want them to feel they are in a sensitive/friendly space where they can project their memories of loss, their moments of melancholy, their sadness, and also why not celebrate their dead and life itself.

This is a project that mixes the personal and the collective, that has a record of scenes of a cemetery and the symbolic built by those who exalted their dead. And at the same time a space of memory, a mural where those who attend can also leave their mark.

Open Studio video: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/i-4hhX6RSdY>

Instagram: s_casal_ph

Web: <https://www.santiagocasalph.com/>

Mail: san.casal15@gmail.com

Paisaje



Thomas
Le Quy
Thien K

Nicho grande



Cruz



Casa deconstruida



Altar



Diosito

MARTHA

¿CUANTAS
VECES
ESCRIBISTE
EL NOMBRE
DE TUS
MUERTOS?

HOW MANY TIMES
HAVE YOU
WRITTEN
YOUR DEAD'S
NAMES?

Mural

Thirteen
thirty



Retratos

How many times have you written your dead's names?

SPATIAL DIMENSIONS OF THE EXHIBITION

SERIES:

- + **Diosito:** covers an approximate surface area of 62cm high by 62cm wide.
- + **Paisaje:** covers a surface area of approximately 60cm high by 160cm wide.
- + **Casa deconstruida:** covers an approximate area of 38cm high by 160cm wide.
- + **Cruz:** covers an approximate area of 52cm high by 72cm wide.
- + **Nicho grande:** covers an approximate area of 112cm high by 200cm wide.
- + **Retratos:** covers an approximate area of 150cm high by 200cm wide.

INSTALLATIONS:

+ **Altar:** Installation composed of flowers, photos, candles, personal and symbolic objects in honour of the dead. This installation always depends on the space to be exhibited, it can be a corner, a whole wall or a tiny space, it adapts to the spatial disposition of the place.

+ **Mural:** writing on a wall, glass or any surface that can be written on and then erased or painted. This device also depends on the available space, it can be a wall or a window.