

# H Y B R I D   C R E A T U R E S

MIGUEL ÁNGEL HERNANDO | A SOLO SHOWCASE



**JENNIFER LAUREN**  
GALLERY

# H Y B R I D   C R E A T U R E S

MIGUEL ÁNGEL HERNANDO | A SOLO SHOWCASE

–  
Back cover image: Untitled (16035), 2016

Ink pen on board, 38x19.5cm

Photo by Ellie Walmsley

Design by Molly Davies

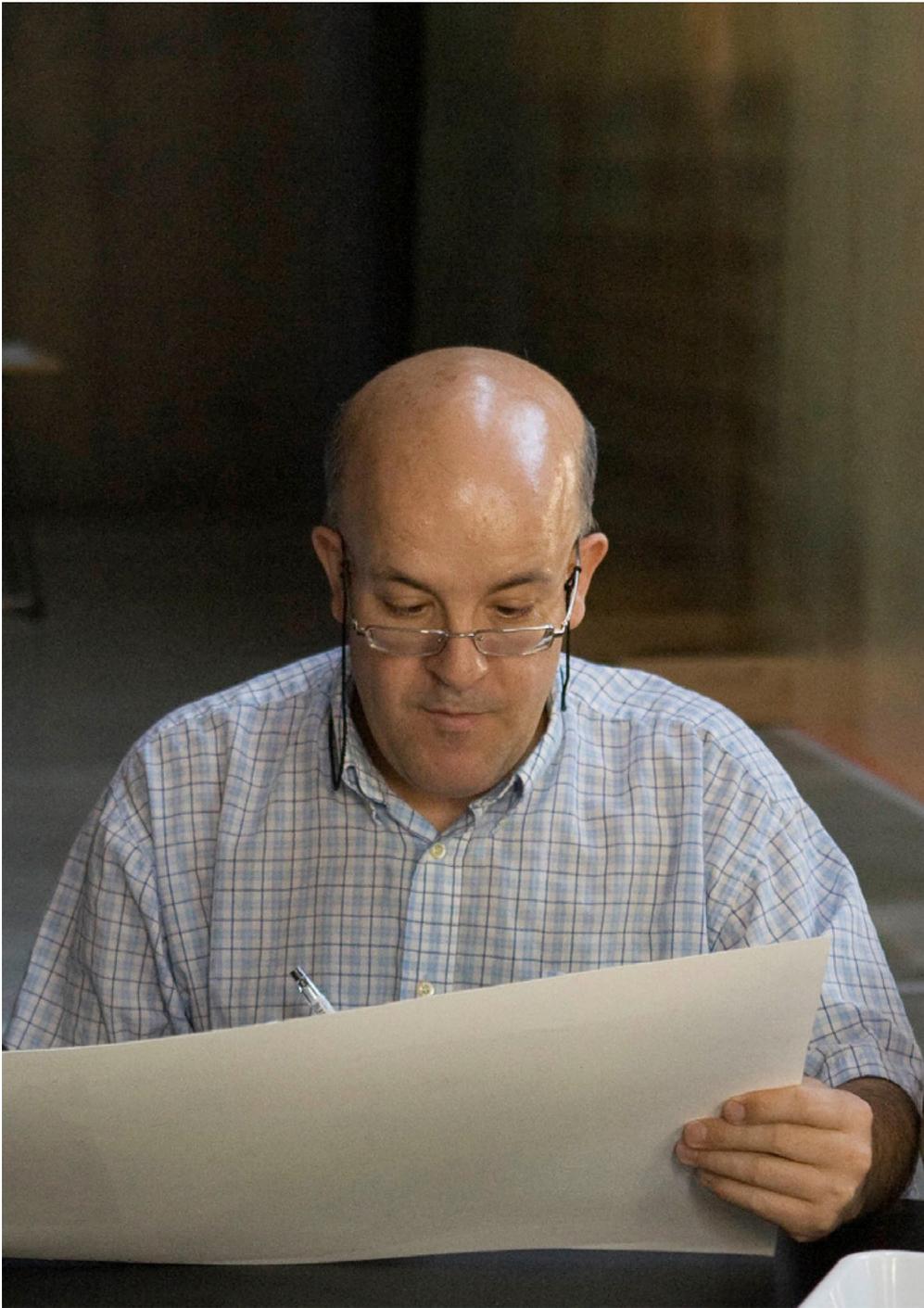
**JENNIFER LAUREN**  
GALLERY

Funded by



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

## I N T R O D U C T I O N



Photograph taken by Debajo del Sombrero

The Jennifer Lauren Gallery is thrilled to be showing a body of work by Spanish self-taught artist Miguel Ángel Hernando. For over thirty years he has been honing his practice at two supported studios culminating in this, his first solo showcase.

Hernando's work was submitted for selection for my first online exhibition *Art | Unlocked | Unearthed* earlier in 2020. I was immediately drawn to a very dense work, with shiny gold gel pen markings bringing the work to life. This work, of course, sold very quickly and, after contacting the studio, I received a new body of work created by Hernando over the last seven years.

Without language, Hernando creates his own individualised figures and animals, adding more detail such as smaller animals within animals, raising a smile. The photographs, whilst revealing fantastic artwork, do not do justice to the colours and effects his use of pens creates.

Miguel Ángel Hernando was born in Madrid in 1965, and started to attend the Carabanchel Occupational Centre in 1989, where he worked in the ceramic and drawing workshops. Since 2011 he has attended the Debajo del Sombrero workshop in Matadero, Madrid. He attends twice a week, for four hours each time. Whenever someone new comes into the studio, he has a need without exception, to know their birth date and day of the week they were born. It is clear that its meaning hides something that fascinates him. In this way, Hernando shows the same urgency that we all feel to decipher the enigma of time in our lives. This interest in time also manifests in his eagerness to collect calendars and take them everywhere with him. They seem to be much more his property than the clothes that he wears. He can often be found asking others to bring him calendars – but they must be from the current year. He also has a daily ritual of singing the birthday song, which the whole studio has come to accept.

Hernando's artwork features a world of tiny patterns and imagined animals and figures, arranged around the page. He loves to work in glitter gel pens to create his colourful works. It is believed that he draws things to be admired in heavy detail, but due to his limited speech, the studio cannot be exactly sure what he is drawing. Over time his drawings have increased in their delicacy and in the precision of his detail. Hernando has refined his style of a complicated network of streaks and dots that he uses as decoration on the figures and animals. No one knows just how much detail or ornamentation will feature in a piece of work. The studio views many of the pieces as extravagant works, but love the variation in what he creates. He often repeats the phrase "I paint very well", so perhaps he feels we do not need to know anymore.



Untitled (20002), 2020  
Ink pen on paper, 42x29.5cm  
Photo by Ellie Walmsley



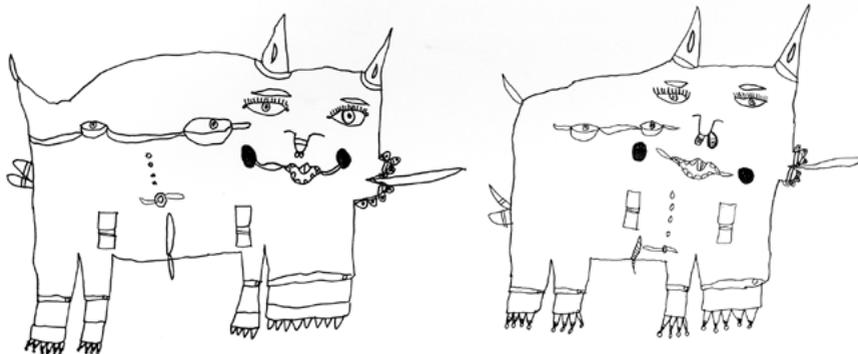
Untitled (20002), 2020  
Ink pen on paper, 42x29.5cm  
Photo by Ellie Walmsley



I paint very well

-

MIGUEL ÁNGEL HERNANDO



M&H