

## STRANGER TIMES

*The spectacle is the uninterrupted conversation which the present order maintains about itself, its laudatory monologue.  
It is the self portrait of power in the epoch of its totalitarian management of the conditions of existence*

Guy Debord, *Society of the Spectacle*. Detroit: Black & Red, 1970.

*Stranger Times* develops from research on archival photographs, mainly from II World War and Cold War, about bizarre chemical and biological war developments and examines the human enormous capacity of normalizing and banalizing the barbarism<sup>1</sup>. How much can we pretend that everything is ok when the world falls apart around us? To what extent are we exempt of responsibility?

We are in a theater where the familiar becomes strange, 'verfremdet' as in Brecht<sup>2</sup>.

It represents that uneasy tendency perhaps most poignantly, as it harasses the sanctity of the family, the society and the bourgeoisie, suggesting that any nostalgia we might have for their old, solid versions, should be abandoned, as according to two German and one Brooklyn's classics, "all that's solid, melts into air"<sup>3</sup>, and sentimental attachments are neither helping to stop this process, nor to emancipate.

*Stranger Times* tells us about the strangeness, the perplexity before the modern era and its absurdities, and the normalization and trivialization of these absurdities and their terrible consequences. Everyday life goes on while the world collapses around us, and we get used, banalize, adapt to the disaster or even gather to watch it as a spectacle. These paintings represent a not too distant past, or a future closer than we might think.

1. Hannah Arendt and 'Amos Elon. *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*. New York Toronto London: Penguin Books, 2006.
2. Francesco Fiorentino. "Ansätze Zu Einer Pädagogik Der Fremdheit Bei Brecht." In *The Brecht Yearbook / Das Brecht-Jahrbuch* 45, 102-15. Boydell and Brewer Limited, 2020. →
3. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. *Manifesto of the Communist Party*. Marx/Engels Selected Works, Vol. One. Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1969. →



Acoustic locators. Oil on canvas, 120 x 100 cm, 2019 →



Masks at Play. Oil on canvas, 50 x 50 cm, 2020 →



The future is here. Oil on canvas, 180 x 120 cm, 2020 →



Children's Gas Mask. Oil on canvas, 140 x 100 cm, 2020 →



Air Raid Warden. Oil on canvas, 40 x 30 cm, 2020 →



Chemical Development Section. Oil on canvas, 40 x 30 cm, 2020 →



Practical Physics. Oil on canvas, 40 x 30 cm, 2020 →



Little Portrait. Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 30 cm, 2022 →



Dog Squad. Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 30 cm, 2022 →



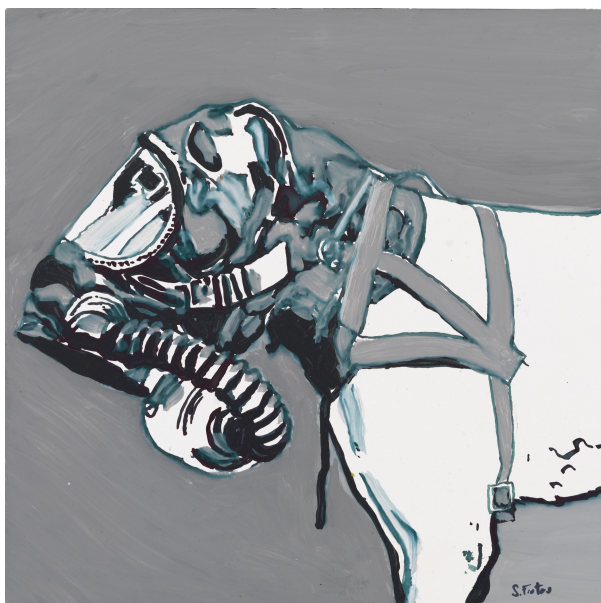
Just Married. Acrylic on canvas, 30 x 40 cm, 2022 →



School Break. Acrylic on canvas, 50 x 50 cm, 2022 →



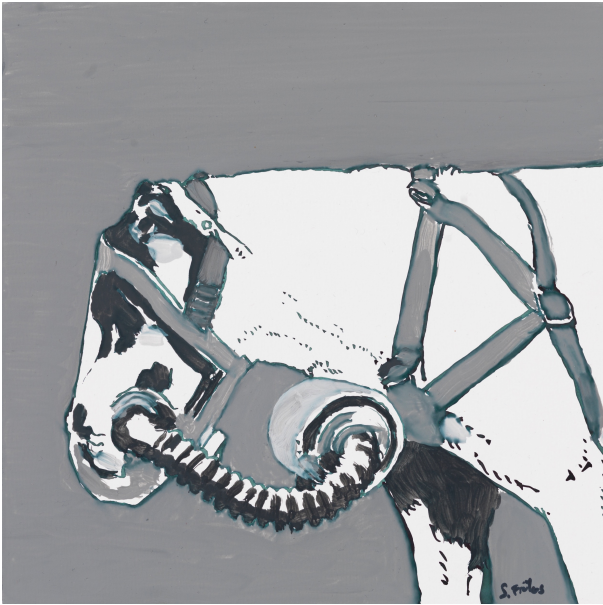
Presentation. Acrylic on canvas, 50 x 50 cm, 2022 →



USA War Dogs I. Gouache and ink on wood, 20 x 20 cm, 2023 →



USA War Dogs II. Gouache and ink on wood, 20 x 20 cm, 2023 →



USA War Dogs III. Gouache and ink on wood, 20 x 20 cm, 2023 →



Day at the garden. Acrylic on canvas, 130 x 100 cm, 2023 →



Tropical Family. Acrylic on canvas, 130 x 100 cm, 2023 →