

Susan Nash in El Foro de Pozuelo

“Pagodenburg, el pabellón de los hombres” (“Pagodenburg, the men’s pavillion/department/flag”), a solo exhibition by the London-born artist Susan Nash, opens on Friday, April 11, at 8 pm. It is articulated around an installation, and the fundamental themes it explores are those of fragmentation, the traces of the past, human relationships, masculinity and femininity, distance and absence.

Susan Nash, who studied in Southampton, Madrid and Cambridge, has this to say of her exhibition: “One of many imagined spaces. Although, in the end, it is not about men, but rather about a certain product of the collective imagination, the phantasmagoria of identity”.

This exhibition in El Foro is structured around a tent like that of an Arab sheikh in the style of Rudolph Valentino. The artist intended it as a divertimento, not a denunciation. Ironic humour expressed through a message in Morse: “Mr Okubo carefully dusts his pagoda every day”. Mercedes Replinger has pointed out that, in Nash’s work, “abandoned fragments cast a gloomy shadow across our memory, telling, in their abandonment, a story of disorder, of the incomprehensible, of all that we prefer to leave outside the pale of certainty”.

One more turn of the screw in the work of a serious and unusual artist who seeks in Pagodenburg a meaning that lies between the absurd and the lovable, between humour and yarn-spinning.

Jesús Gironés