

# Nicolás Franco

Nicolás Franco was born in the year of the Chilean military putsch and grew up under the Pinochet regime. After Pinochet's relinquishment of power in 1990, Franco went to Europe to study art in Madrid and Amsterdam, among other things. In his work, he frequently concentrates on the appropriation and deconstruction of found materials, often from an era before his life began. *Ayer Hoy* (*Yesterday Today*, 2012) uses a propaganda book published in 1975 by the Chilean military government with an almost identical title. *Chile: Ayer Hoy* was intended as a demonstration of the achievements of Pinochet's government. On the left-hand pages, there were photos of "yesterday"—before Pinochet's time in power, which depict scenes of violence, chaos, and poverty. On the right-hand pages, images with exactly the opposite were shown, the majority of which were taken in the same places as their counterpart. On every page, markedly advertising-style typography declared the respective differences between *ayer* and *hoy* (yesterday and today). For his work, Franco cut out the image section of the pages and folded them in such a way that only the time and short picture caption were legible. With this technique, he demonstrated in a literal sense the construction of allegedly historical realities, and converted them by negating the visual narrative to an aesthetically abstract level of universality. (TP)

Nicolás Franco (\*1973 in Santiago, Chile, lives and works in Santiago) holds a BFA from University of Madrid. Recent solo exhibitions include ones at the Museo de Artes Visuales, Santiago (2014), Museum of Contemporary Art, Santiago (2014), and the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Santiago (2012).





