

ART & BORDERS

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## Embarked Lives

Enrique Ramírez

### About the Artist



Enrique Ramírez, 2020  
photo credit: Felipe Ugalde

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-  <https://www.instagram.com/enriqueramirez/>
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Enrique Ramírez was born in 1979 in Santiago (Chile). He lives and works between Paris (France) and Santiago (Chile). He studied popular music and cinema in Chile before joining the postgraduate master in contemporary art and new media at Le Fresnoy—Studio National des Arts Contemporains (Tourcoing, France). In 2014, he won the discovery prize of Les Amis du Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France. His work has since been exhibited at Palais de Tokyo and the Centre Pompidou in Paris (France), Museo Amparo, Puebla (México), Museo de la memoria, Santiago (Chile), Parque de la Memoria and Centro Cultural MATA, Buenos Aires (Argentina), Galerie de l'UQAM, Montréal (Canada), Center for Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv (Israel), Kunsthalle Bielefeld (Germany) among others. In 2017, he was part of the 57th Venice Biennale in the international exhibition “Viva Arte Viva” (curator Christine Macel).

Ramírez's work combines video, photography, music, sculptures, and installations. Ramírez appreciates stories within stories, fictions straddling countries and epochs, the mirages between dream and reality. The Chilean artist often uses image and sound to construct a profusion of intrigues and to occupy the equilibrium between the poetic and the political. His imaginary worlds are attached to one obsessional element: his thinking starts with the sea, a space for memory in perpetual movement, a space for narrative projections where the fate of Chile intersects with grand narratives of voyage, conquest, and migratory flows. His images speak of the sparkle of a truth in permanent flight, the backwash of history, always repeating and never the same.

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### Editor's Introduction

The work of Franco-Chilean Enrique Ramírez is polymorphous. His favorite medium is video installation, but he also excels in other media. He is one of those artists whose medium is less important than the messages to be conveyed. Ramírez is known for his treatment of the Chilean dictatorship (2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the coup d'état of dictator Pinochet). This selection for *BIG\_Review* focuses on exile, but it is also linked to the idea of destiny. What marks a life? Irregularities and meaning. To the shipwrecked is induced a loss but also a reconstruction that can be significant to the immigrants but not only. In this way, Ramírez's work can vibrate within us with its humanistic and poetic vision.

*Un homme sans image* (“A man without an image”) can suggest drowning, despair, the rescue of a person who has traveled thousands of miles to reach a goal. What path, what destiny? That of *4820 brillos* (“4820 beams”) refers to the missing in the Mediterranean Sea in 2016. *Doce botes para un continente, Europa* (“Twelve boats for one continent, Europe”) are the stars of the European flag that inevitably sink in the face of the “migratory crisis” leaving little hope of rescue. The series of photos *Volonté* (“Will”) announces a possible rescue through collective effort. While in the series of *Calais* the shelters of fortune are present contrary to the people, suggesting a route and daily life shaken by suffering. In *Cruzar un muro* (“Crossing a wall”), it is the frail boat that institutes a customs office. In *La gravedad* (“Gravity”), bits of paper are tossed about. Light and volatile, they play with the randomness of brushstrokes and the inevitability of falling back, engaging then with a double sense of gravity. Finally, in *Los extranjeros* (“Strangers”) exogenous trees find themselves embarked together on the same territory. It is thanks to their differences that they harmonize a single forest.

This selection of powerful works by the artist Enrique Ramírez evokes the fate and determination of those in exile, and the potentials of Life.

— Elisa Ganivet



**Enrique Ramírez**

*Un homme sans image...*, 2020

2K video, sound, color

9 minutes

Courtesy the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels; Die Ecke, Santiago

Watch the trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/832534852>



**Enrique Ramírez**

*Un homme sans image...*, 2020

2K video, sound, color

9 minutes

Courtesy the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels; Die Ecke, Santiago



**Enrique Ramírez**  
*Un homme sans image...*, 2020  
2K video, sound, color  
9 minutes  
Courtesy the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels; Die Ecke, Santiago

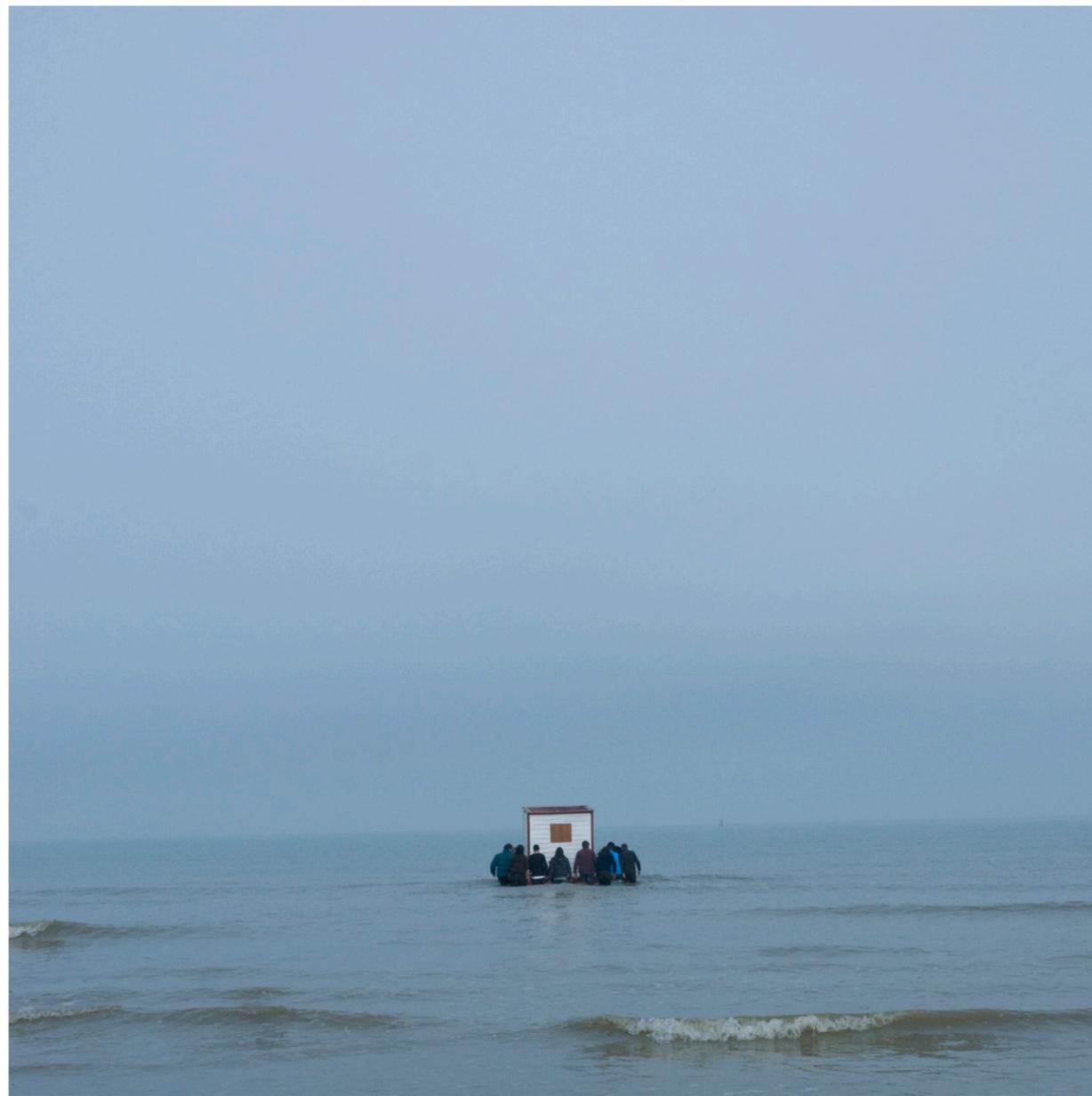


**Enrique Ramírez**  
*Un homme sans image...*, 2020  
2K video, sound, color  
9 minutes  
Courtesy the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels; Die Ecke, Santiago



**Enrique Ramírez**  
*4820 brillos*, 2017  
4820 copper coins  
250 x 250 x 40 cm  
Courtesy of the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels

**Enrique Ramírez**  
*Doce botes para un continente, europa*, 2016  
4 hand-embroidery on cotton fabric, metal pliers, wooden frame,  
glass 40 x 48 cm (each)  
Courtesy the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels



**Enrique Ramírez**

*Volonté*, 2009  
Horizon series

lambda print, wooden frame, plexiglass  
80 x 80 cm (print)

Courtesy the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels; Die Ecke, Santiago



**Enrique Ramírez**

*Volonté*, 2009  
Horizon series

lambda print, wooden frame, plexiglass  
80 x 80 cm (print)

Courtesy the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels; Die Ecke, Santiago



**Enrique Ramírez**

*Calais N9, 2009*

lambda print mounted on dibond, wooden frame, glass

74 x 49 cm (print)

Courtesy the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels



**Enrique Ramírez**

*Calais N13, 2009*

lambda print mounted on dibond, wooden frame, glass

74 x 49 cm (print)

Courtesy the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels



**Enrique Ramírez**  
*Cruzar un muro*, 2012  
HD video, colour, sound  
5 minutes, 15 seconds  
Courtesy the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels; Die Ecke, Santiago  
Watch the trailer:  
<https://vimeo.com/832532176>



**Enrique Ramírez**  
*Cruzar un muro*, 2012  
HD video, colour, sound  
5 minutes, 15 seconds  
Courtesy the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels; Die Ecke, Santiago



**Enrique Ramírez**

*La gravedad*, 2015

HD video 24 FPS, color, sound

11 minutes, 26 seconds

Courtesy the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels; Die Ecke, Santiago

Watch the trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/837854578>



**Enrique Ramírez**

*Los extranjeros*, 2023

synchronized double projection

4K video, color, sound

7 minutes, 30 seconds

Courtesy the artist and Michel Rein, Paris/Brussels

Watch the Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/832538086>