Jack Fischer Gallery is pleased to announce *salvaje y libre*, the second solo show with the gallery of Spanish artist *Javier Arce*. Join us for the opening reception on January 12, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at our Minnesota Street Project location. The show will be up through February 10, 2018.
In this new exhibition, Arce presents two different types of work. In Serie Estrujados, the artist reflects upon the significance of great works of art, such as Las Meninas by Velazquez, Guernica by Picasso, and as shown in salvaje y libre, Jasper John’s Flag. These famous works are cultural icons, reproduced so many times that they have become “disposable” objects, almost obsolete. Arce has redrawn some of these works with felt-pen on indestructible paper, crumbled them up (as to throwaway), producing what looks like a photocopy of the original. He purposely disassociates his work from the decorative and references the avant-garde movement, challenging the artistic and aesthetic notions and methods of production, prevailing concept above quality and readymades over craftsmanship. The artist takes on an ironic reference of his work and that of great masters, works that have been praised but overturned by mass-production in advertising, design, decoration and fashion. The viewer is left questioning authenticity, is this body of work an ode to mastery or a critique of how culture has become a commodity.

The second part of the exhibition, the artist reflects on the transitory aspect of history and symbolism with an in situ installation of a drawing made with charcoal and ash on rice paper in which he reinterprets images of the paleolithic paintings seen in the Covalanas caves in Cantabria close to where the artist resides.

Javier Arce (b. 1973, Santander, Spain) has a degree in Engraving from the Escuela de Artes Aplicadas in Oviedo, a BFA from the Universidad del Pais Vasco, Spain, and received his Masters in Sculpture from the Wimbledon School of Fine Art, University of London. He has been awarded grants from the International Studio and Curatorial Program in New York, and Fundación Arte y Derecho in Madrid. Arce has shown extensively in several cities of Spain, such as at Museo de Arte Moderno y Contemporáneo (MAS) in Santander, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo in Castilla y Leon, El Museo Artium in Vitoria, Fundación Miro in Barcelona, as well as internationally, in the Museum of Contemporary Art in Zagreb, Croatia, Cindy Rucker Gallery in New York, NY, Jack Fischer Gallery in San Francisco, CA, San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, CA, among others. His work is included in numerous collections such as Caja Madrid; Fundación Marcelino Botín, Santander; ARTIUM Museum; Coca-Cola Foundation; Museo de Bellas Artes, Santander; Centro de Arte Contemporaneo de Caja de Burgos; MUSAC, Leon; DKV Collection, Valencia, etc.