

In ***La conquista de América***, Tzvetan Todorov notes that indigenous texts attribute Hernán Cortés's inexorable advance across the territories of present-day Mexico to the fact that the word of the gods had become unintelligible. The gods had lost the use of speech; receiving no answers from them at the oracles, they deemed "mute or dead" (Diego Durán, 1880, p. 54). The Aztecs, Todorov adds, described this sense of collapsing meaning and hopelessness in the face of the conquistadors' advance "*like a silence that falls*" (Todorov, 1987, p. 69).

The exhibition's title alludes to the malaise and introspection that arise within communities marked as non-belonging, communities "other" which are stigmatized, marginalized, harassed, and persecuted through the process of inventing and assigning otherness. The exhibition presents two works created by Ribas in Granada specifically for this show, alongside a version of a recent piece made in Chile in 2024. These three works dialogue with texts and works by authors Ribas cites (Raúl Ruiz, Agustina González, Diego Durán, Bartolomé de las Casas) or invites to participate in the exhibition (Ailo Ribas), as well as with materials from archives in Granada (of the Real Chancillería and the Herbarium of the UGR) and the work of local researchers (Silvia González). It is a project of artistic and curatorial endeavour that intersects diverse meanings, geographies, and temporalities around the notion of the invention of the other. It takes the city of Granada as a paradigm and views the Americas as the backdrop for the new modernity that emerged in the late 15th and early 16th centuries—a period defined by the expulsion of the Arabs and the conquest and destruction of the indigenous peoples of the Americas. The narrative is anchored by three historical paintings: ***The Departure of Boabdil's Family from the Alhambra*** by Manuel Gómez-Moreno (1880), ***The Expulsion of the Moors*** by Diego de Velázquez (1627), and ***The Foundation of Santiago*** by Pedro Lira (1888).

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Tzvetan Todorov, ***La conquista de América. La cuestión del otro*** [1982], 1987, p.69

Diego Durán, ***Historia de las Indias de Nueva España y islas de Tierra Firme*** [1581], 1880, Tomo II p.54