

# CORKIN GALLERY

**Giancarlo Scaglia**

## **El Frontón and Stellar**

By Giancarlo Scaglia

El Frontón, a small deserted island located 7 km from the coast of La Punta district in El Callao, remained uninhabited for centuries until, in 1917, during the second presidential term of José Pardo, a maximum security prison was built to house the most dangerous criminals and political prisoners. However, the island only acquired historical significance when in June 18 1986, it became the scene of the Frontón riot - one of the most violent clashes between the armed forces and the Shining Path ("Sendero Luminoso") terrorist group. The center Frontón features works that address this tragic event and thus rake over the ashes.

## **Stellar**

(Nocturnal Map, 2011-2014)

In ancient times, constellations not only enabled intellectuals to recognise the change of seasons but were also a way of predicting the future –a means that allowed them to prepare for what was to come, without fearing the future and ever aware of what happened in the past. After a period of three years of in-situ investigation on El Frontón Island, what started out as a study of the natural landscape became a visual arts study of the passage of time on man's actions in what could today be considered contemporary ruins. The bullet holes are the only remaining traces of the 1986 massacre and they create a code at random, which, when read, brings us back to the constellations.

The island speaks to me about its past and it is in this dialogue between the two of us that I search for the answers to our future.

Scaglia's work questions modernist definitions of art and recontextualizes armed conflicts in Peru.

Recent exhibitions include: IV Poly/Graphic Triennale, San Juan (2015), the Mercosul Biennale, Porto Alegre (2015), Bajo el sol de la muerte, Galeria Espacio Minimo, Madrid (2013), La Quema del Diablo, Diablo Rosso Gallery, Panama City (2012), and the Mercosul Biennale, Porto Alegre (2011).