



## Contaminación Existencial (Existential Contamination)

**Francisco Manuel Cortes** | 130 × 97 cm, oil on canvas

The human figure appears in this artwork, expressing disappointment and lack of confidence. The young girl has a neutral background that merges with her figure. She seems to be emerging from the background, showing her lack of expectations or fundamental values on which she can base her projection. Her face has black lines that are polluting her figure. The feeling of lack of values and stability, disorientation, and realism is transmitted by the artwork.

This extremely young artist (just 4 years after finishing his fine arts education), uses his academic education to express his concern about society and the mixed values that are expressed at this moment by young people in many Western societies. Expressivity and figurative art is mixed in this artwork.

This artwork has received the Emerging Artist Award Miradas Spain 2020.

*Description by Jorge L. Alió*

The "Miradas" competition was created by Jorge Alió, Journal of Refractive Surgery Editorial Board Member, and his wife, Maria Lopez, in 1998 with the intention of using artistic sensibility to bring society's attention to the phenomenon of sight, vision, and blindness. "Miradas," which means glances, is a contest in which artwork is sent from Spain and many international countries from the four continents for the Miradas International Artwork Competition every two years. Each cover of the Journal of Refractive Surgery features paintings that were submitted to this competition. "Miradas" is sponsored by OPHTEC BV, The Netherlands. For more information, contact [www.fundacionalio.com](http://www.fundacionalio.com)

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