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## Agoraphobia

**Maria Zambrana** | 130 cm x 97 cm, oil on wood with augmented reality video

This spectacular artwork is focused on the concept of the use of new technologies, which are associated with vision and the treatment of diseases such as agoraphobia (intense fear of open and public spaces). The painting has two evident stages. The first shows a dark room and a canvas painting. A person in this room is using expanded virtual reality glasses, in which the person is immersed in a street with people and traffic. Through this particular vision of reality, the person is receiving a therapeutic input for this disease. Virtual reality glasses help to decrease anxiety and overcome phobias. The second stage of the painting is the street, the “reality” seen by the person. It is an animation that can be visualized with mobile cell phones. The person observing the painting is able to see the “reality” that is seen by the person in the painting. The observer and the person in the painting are looking at the same virtual reality. Convergence of glances toward the same virtual reality.

Maria Zambrana is a local emerging artist from Alicante. Despite her youth, her enthusiastic career has led her to many exhibitions and fine art debate workshops and she has received a number of national awards.

This artwork was classified and selected for Miradas Spain, 2019.

*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 artists from Spain and several Latin American countries submit paintings dealing with the topic of sight and the prevention of blindness. 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.fundacionhealio.com](http://www.fundacionhealio.com)

