

The Armory Show 2022

Marking the gallery's inaugural participation in The Armory Show, Galería RGR is pleased to showcase a selection of paintings, photography, sculpture and mixed media works by the gallery's artists program and *estates*.

The canon of abstract art history is constantly under construction, with new perspectives appearing on the scene, which nurtures a multicultural vision of the movement. For this reason, this proposal features internationally positioned artists, who among their differences, one may find an appropriate dialogue to reinterpret abstractionism in the 21st century.

On the one hand, the booth presents iconic pieces by artists who marked the contemporary Latin American scene such as Oswaldo Vigas, Carlos Cruz-Diez and Julio Le Parc. Oswaldo Vigas linked his work to Venezuelan visual culture and primitivist aesthetics, Cruz-Diez established a distinctive way of painting with color in space and time, and Julio Le Parc has developed a social and political commitment that conceives viewers not only as participants in the works but as co-authors.

On the other hand, more recent proposals that have given continuity to abstractionism, within perspectives that highlight both different socio-cultural spheres and new formal aspects, were included. Following a social and political line, Patrick Hamilton proposes —from his photographs of the Atacama Desert intervened with copper plate— a kind of archaeological memory that investigates the history, politics and economy of Chile. Felipe Pantone, on his part, contributes to the critical dialogue through his artistic practice which converges urban culture and the digital revolution.

In technical terms, Diego Pérez carries out a material exploration with two sculptures made in 2021 and 2022, respectively. Perez builds limestone cubes carved on all sides to generate micro spaces with a magical atmosphere, evoking places belonging to vanished cultures or sacred sites. On the other hand, Matthias Bitzer resorts to unusual materials, a range of geometric patterns, superimposed images and cartoons with minimalist elements to create an imaginary ecosystem that defies human rationality.

The exhibition is based on historiographic research, as it investigates the capacity of the visual language of different artists to be incorporated into the history of abstraction. Through works that are defined by their experimentation and plurality, it is possible to follow innovations in the way of producing and experiencing artistic objects. In this way, new horizons for abstractionism and, consequently, different approaches to the history of contemporary art are raised.

About Galería RGR

Galería RGR was founded by Ricardo Gonzalez in Venezuela in 2012 before moving to its current location in Mexico City in 2018. The gallery champions both established and emergent contemporary artists from across the globe, whose practices and research point toward the distinct futures offered by abstractionism.

Covering 260 sq m, the gallery space is located in the San Miguel Chapultepec neighborhood, in a building previously used as the editorial offices of Mexico's youth magazine, ERES (1988-2012). Using abstract art as a guiding thread, the gallery unites various artistic fields and lines of thought. Having begun with the representation of key Venezuelan artists of the modern-contemporary art juncture, such as Carlos Cruz-Diez and Jesús Rafael Soto, the gallery's evolution has meant a continuous search for fruitful intersections between the present and the near past, expanding beyond geographical limits.

Through its exhibition program, Galería RGR creates critical dialogues around international contemporary art production, mainly exploring abstraction as the base language, from its roots in the modernist painters and sculptors of the mid-20th century to the most innovative multidisciplinary proposals of our times. Exhibitions include seminal solo shows with artists Carlos Cruz-Diez (2018) and Oswaldo Vigas (2019), marking the latter's first-ever solo show in Mexico. The gallery's international program represents artists from America, Europe, and Asia; they hosted the first Latin American solo shows for artists, including Jeppe Hein (2021) and Ding Yi (2022).