

OPERA GALLERY



Juan Genovés, *Cumbre*, 2014, acrylic and mixed media on canvas
laid down on board, 180.5 x 250.5 cm | 71.1 x 98.6 in

GENEVA

Juan Genovés

13 MARCH - 10 APRIL, 2026

Opera Gallery Geneva is pleased to present a solo exhibition showcasing Spanish artist Juan Genovés (1930–2020), on view from 13 March to 10 April 2026. Bringing together just over fifteen paintings from the 2000s, including several works from the artist's estate, the exhibition spotlights a late yet fresh chapter of his practice, one that still speaks powerfully to the present.

Genovés is celebrated for his paintings of crowds seen from above. Small figures move across wide fields of colour, converging, drifting apart, hesitating, then continuing on. With little setting and no horizon to anchor the scene, the image becomes strangely universal. Rather than describing a single event, Genovés captures a shared condition: how we occupy space together, how we respond to one another, and how a collective rhythm emerges from countless individual trajectories.

In our image-saturated era, Genovés' vision feels culturally topical. Our world is flooded with overhead views, crowds captured on screens, mapped in real time, photographed from above, yet Genovés gives this contemporary vantage point a human pulse. Up close, the paintings reveal dense, tactile surfaces: each figure is built from paint thickened into relief and grounded by crisp shadows. At times, he embeds tiny fragments of fabric, wire, stone, even miniature photographic portraits into the bodies. These details push back against anonymity and reward sustained observation, revealing personality and presence where you first perceived only the many.

Born in Valencia in 1930, Genovés came of age under the Franco regime and understood how easily people can be reduced to a mass. His response was not to moralise, but to make images that remain open. As he put it: "I refuse to give an interpretation of my paintings. I would consider it a failure to do art that can be defined and explained." This refusal to close meaning down is part of what keeps the works so alive: they do not prescribe an answer, but invite the viewer to look, reflect, and return.

Experienced at full scale, these paintings are both compelling and uplifting. They transform the crowd into a space of movement, connection, and possibility. This exhibition offers an opportunity to encounter Genovés at his most distilled and accomplished, and to discover, within the many, the persistence of the individual.

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About Juan Genovés

Juan Genovés (1930-2020) is one of Spain's most celebrated contemporary artists, renowned for his aerial view paintings of crowds that distil movement, tension and collective experience into a singular visual language. Born in Valencia, he trained at the city's School of Fine Arts and established himself in Madrid, where the crowd became his defining motif from the 1960s onward. Drawing on mass media imagery, Genovés developed a form of political realism that speaks to solidarity, control and the fragile presence of the individual within the many.

After Franco's death and during Spain's transition to democracy, Genovés painted *El abrazo* (1976), a close knit group bound in a collective embrace. The image became one of Spain's best known symbols of democratic unity, helping bring his work to a wider public. Today, *El abrazo* is held in Madrid by the Spanish Congress (Congreso de los Diputados). Genovés' work has been exhibited internationally and is represented in major public and private collections including the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, the Guggenheim Museum, New York, the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, and the Centre National d'Art Contemporain, Paris. His distinctions include an Honourable Mention at the Venice Biennale (1966), the Gold Medal at the San Marino International Biennial (1967), the Marzotto International Award (1968), and Spain's Gold Medal of Merit in Fine Arts.

About Opera Gallery

Founded in Singapore in 1994, Opera Gallery has forged a network of galleries worldwide with locations in London, Paris, New York, Geneva, Madrid and Dubai, establishing itself as one of the leading forces within the international art market.

Headed by Gilles Dyan, Chairman and Founder, Opera Gallery specialises in modern, Post-War, and contemporary art. In addition, the gallery represents international emerging artists such as Andy Denzler, Pieter Obels and Gustavo Nazareno, alongside internationally recognised names such as Ron Arad, Manolo Valdés and Anselm Reyle.

Situated in the heart of the city, the Geneva location spans over 200 square meters of exhibition space and is directed by Jordan Lahmi. For more than 30 years, Opera Gallery's mission has been to showcase the dynamic, innovative, and diverse expressions of modern and contemporary art through its ambitious yearly exhibition programming and collaborations with private collections and leading public institutions.

Press Contact

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