

Daniella Portillo

OPERA GALLERY

Daniella Portillo

3 April – 5 May

Daniella Portillo paints emotional landscapes of El Salvador to transfigure feelings of longing and separation. Muted palettes, scratched brushstrokes and mystical interplays of light and shadow tinge the artist's impressions of her native land as a force of nature, stretching the poetic sensibilities of form and movement to the threshold of abstraction.

Rendered in deep grays, stormy blues, and smoldering ochres, Portillo's paintings trace a personal journey of emigration begun in 2004 when she and her family left their home country for the United States, following the country's growing political unrest. Nearly fifteen years later, in 2018, a visit to El Salvador sparked a desire to study the view from her grandfather's home, where she had lived growing up. The house and its surrounding nature, charged with complex conflicting emotions, would later evolve into fields of subconscious exploration embarked upon from her studio in New Jersey.

Each painting develops unplanned. Without sketch or photograph, Portillo carries out the initial layer directly onto canvas, guided by her sensibility to the spatial qualities of light as it emerges from colour. Influenced by the atmosphere of place that Portillo describes as etched into her memory, many of these paintings are based on the experience of her return, while recollections of her earlier childhood memories remain more hazy. In many it's unclear whether the images shows a body of water or land, a storm or volcanic activity brewing beneath the surface of the visual plane.

In this ambiguity lies the essence of her work. As Daniella Portillo reaches into her the layers of her emotional memory, she endows the scenes with higher emotional sensibility, where poetic haziness prevails over topographical detail and refracted memories of El Salvador are washed in the spiritual mystery at the root of life.

Dani Portillo was born in 1997 in El Salvador. She currently lives and works in New Jersey, USA.



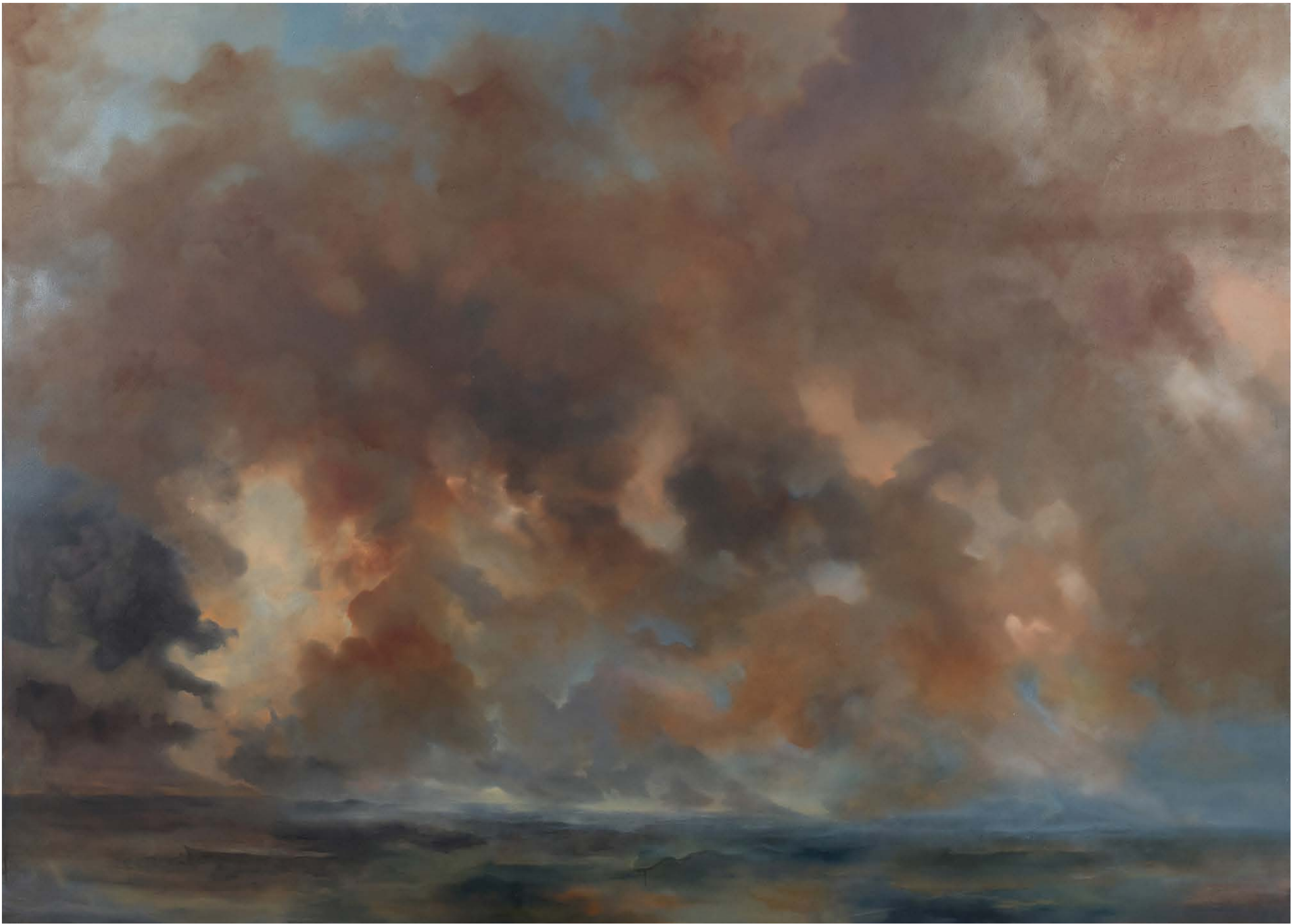
**Daniella
Portillo**
b. 1997

Untitled (Cloud Landscape)
2024

Oil on wood
Signed, titled and dated on the reverse

40.6 x 50.8 cm | 16 x 20 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Daniella
Portillo**
b. 1997

Break in the Clouds
2025
Oil on linen
Signed, titled and dated on the reverse
152.4 x 213.4 cm | 60 x 84 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Daniella
Portillo**
b. 1997

Clouds from Below (Part 1)
2025
Oil on wood
Signed, titled and dated on the reverse
91.4 x 152.4 cm | 36 x 60 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Daniella
Portillo**
b. 1997

Clouds from Below (Part 2)
2025
Oil on wood
Signed, titled and dated on the reverse
91.4 x 152.4 cm | 36 x 60 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Daniella
Portillo**
b. 1997

Light Pushing Through
2025
Oil on linen
Signed, titled and dated on the reverse
152.4 x 213.4 cm | 60 x 84 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Daniella
Portillo**
b. 1997

Red Eye
2025
Oil on linen
Signed, titled and dated on the reverse

Diptych
152.4 x 426.7 cm | 60 x 168 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Daniella
Portillo**
b. 1997

Sulfur Clouds
2025
Oil on linen
Signed, titled and dated on the reverse
152.4 x 213.4 cm | 60 x 84 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Daniella
Portillo**
b. 1997

Three Lights
2025
Oil on linen
Signed, titled and dated on the reverse
76.2 x 101.6 cm | 30 x 40 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



**Daniella
Portillo**
b. 1997

Untitled (Cloud Landscape)
2025

Oil on wood
Signed, titled and dated on the reverse

30.5 x 40.6 cm | 12 x 16 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio

OPERA GALLERY

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3 April – 5 May 2025

Opera Gallery London

65 - 66 New Bond Street

W1S 1RW London

United Kingdom

Contact information

london@operagallery.com

T. +44 (0)20 7491 2999

operagallery.com

Foreword

Samuele Visentin

Cover

Detail of Daniella Portillo,

Red Eye, 2025 (Dptych)

Photography

Artwork photograhpy

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