

The background of the entire page is an abstract artwork by Adrián Navarro. It features large, overlapping organic shapes in vibrant colors: a large teal shape in the center, a bright orange shape at the top, and a deep red shape at the bottom. These shapes are filled with textured, painterly patterns in various colors, including dark green, yellow, and black. The overall composition is dynamic and layered, with some areas showing more detail than others.

Adrián Navarro
Paraísos

OPERA GALLERY

30
YEARS

Adrián Navarro

Paraísos

12 September – 19 October 2024

OPERA GALLERY



Foreword

We are pleased to present ‘Paraísos’, Adrián Navarro’s inaugural solo exhibition at Opera Gallery Madrid, showcasing his most recent work.

Opening with such an evocative title is a compelling statement of intent, bringing to mind *Walden* by the great Henry David Thoreau, yet with a practical and material quality that recalls the down-to-earthness of Sue Hubbell’s stories and, in consequence, somehow more real.

Adrián Navarro’s academic background as an architect has a profound influence on his painting, as borne out by the highly meditated and calculated restraint and harmony which, nevertheless, seems spontaneous and organic in the eyes of the beholder who inquisitively scans his utopian landscapes. His *Paraísos* appear to be uninhabited, devoid of any human interference and self-sufficient in their pure fancy, caught in a constantly redolent flow that straddles the objective and the abstract, the intimate and the subtle.

One can readily grasp the struggle between colours and planes, yet despite the determination of the line, it is actually the colour—whether applied directly or by transfer—that becomes the dominant agent, creating additional strata and subworlds to reality, leading us along a path towards sanctuaries for introspection.

This first exhibition by Adrián Navarro at Opera Gallery tallies to perfection with the core foundation on which Opera Gallery builds its philosophy of *Thinking Global – Acting Local*. A crucial paradigm for a proper understanding of our approach to Art and the edifying and transformative role it plays in our society as part of the cultural fabric of the cities where our galleries are located, supporting and promoting the work of our artists internationally. And so, each one of Adrián Navarro’s brushstrokes not only submerges us in his world but also encourages us to actively partake in a global cultural dialogue grounded in the very essence of our local communities.

Gilles DYAN
Founder and Chairman
Opera Gallery Group

Belén HERRERA OTTINO
Director
Opera Gallery Madrid

Prefacio

Nos complace presentar la primera exposición individual de Adrián Navarro en Opera Gallery Madrid. La muestra titulada ‘Paraísos’ recoge su obra pictórica más reciente.

Arrancar con un título tan sugerente supone una absoluta declaración de intenciones, a lo *Walden* del gran Henry David Thoreau, pero con la materialidad y lo práctico de lo que nos resulta más cercano y por tanto más real de los relatos de Sue Hubbell.

La formación académica de Adrián Navarro como arquitecto influye profundamente en su pintura, existe una medida y una armonía muy meditada y calculada, pero que resulta espontánea y orgánica a los ojos del observador que otea con curiosidad sus paisajes utópicos. Los *Paraísos* emergen despoblados, aislados de la interferencia humana –plenos por lo absolutamente quiméricos–, y medidos entre lo objetivo y lo abstracto, lo cercano y lo sutil, siempre en un manar sugerente y constante.

Se aprecia el pulso entre color y planos, pero pese a la determinación de la línea, es el color aplicado –ya sea de manera directa o por transferencia–, el que se convierte en actor principal, estableciendo más estratos y submundos de realidad, conduciéndonos a unos refugios de introspección.

En base a este pilar esencial sobre el que se fundamenta la filosofía de Opera Gallery *Thinking Global–Acting Local*, se establece esta primera exposición de Adrián Navarro en Opera Gallery. Un paradigma crucial para entender nuestro planteamiento de acercar el Arte y su papel enriquecedor y transformador a nuestra sociedad y formar parte del tejido cultural de las ciudades donde se encuentran nuestras sedes, apoyando y difundiendo el trabajo de nuestros artistas internacionalmente. Así, cada pincelada de Adrián Navarro no solo nos sumerge en su mundo, sino que nos impulsa a ser parte activa de un diálogo cultural global arraigado en la esencia misma de nuestras comunidades locales.

Gilles DYAN
Fundador y presidente
Opera Gallery Group

Belén HERRERA OTTINO
Directora
Opera Gallery Madrid



**1.
Organic forms,
the indomitable presence of the curve dominating space.**

"In 'Paraísos', organic forms are manifestations of life in its maximum splendour. Curves take on bulbous forms, swelling and appearing to breathe, as if they were living organisms. These forms with smooth surfaces and sensual curves contrast with angular geometries to create a visual polarity. Despite this opposition, the curved and angular forms interact harmoniously, suggesting a balanced coexistence between the organic and the structured. The predominance of the curve in my work reinforces the idea of a living, dynamic space full of vital energy."

**1.
Formas orgánicas,
la presencia indómita de la curva dominando el espacio.**

"En 'Paraísos', las formas orgánicas son manifestaciones de vida en su máximo esplendor. Las curvas adoptan formas bulbosas, hinchándose y pareciendo respirar, como si fueran organismos vivos. Estas formas con superficies tersas y curvas sensuales contrastan con las geometrías angulosas, creando una polaridad visual. A pesar de esta oposición, las formas curvas y angulosas juegan en armonía, sugiriendo una coexistencia equilibrada entre lo orgánico y lo estructurado. El dominio de la curva en mi obra refuerza la idea de un espacio viviente, dinámico y lleno de energía vital."

Adrián NAVARRO

Paraíso #8
2024

Oil, oil pencil and oil stick on canvas
Óleo, lápiz y barra de óleo sobre lienzo
Signed, dated and titled on the reverse
153 x 112 cm | 60.2 x 44.1 in



Paraíso #14

2024

Oil, acrylic spray paint and oil pencil on canvas

Óleo, pintura de espray acrílica y lápiz de óleo sobre lienzo

Signed, dated and titled on the reverse

153 x 122 cm | 60.2 x 48 in



Paraíso #16

2024

Oil, acrylic spray paint and oil pencil on canvas

Óleo, pintura de espray acrílica y lápiz de óleo sobre lienzo

Signed, dated and titled on the reverse

150 x 150 cm | 59.1 x 59.1 in



Paraíso #13

2024

Oil, acrylic spray paint, oil stick and oil pencil on canvas

Óleo, pintura de espray acrílica, barra y lápiz de óleo sobre lienzo

Signed, dated and titled on the reverse

162 x 130 cm | 63.8 x 51.2 in







2.

The omnipresence of the line.

"For me, painting, like dance, can be a sensual expression. It is essential to free the body and take pleasure in movement, by painting without losing balance and keeping the rhythm naturally. This focus transfers dance to the canvas, accentuating the corporeal dreaminess that emanates from the figures. At times, the painterly gesture starts with the shoulder in order to emphasise the curve, other times with the wrist to delve deeper into detail, or with the movement of the whole arm to throw paint or make a dripping. The end result could be seen as abstract by some spectators and as figurative by others. That said, I do not make a clear distinction between both visions; for me it is all the same. My goal is to express a pendular perspective that oscillates between the concrete and the infinite, between the tangible and the ethereal, in a constant state of flux."

2.

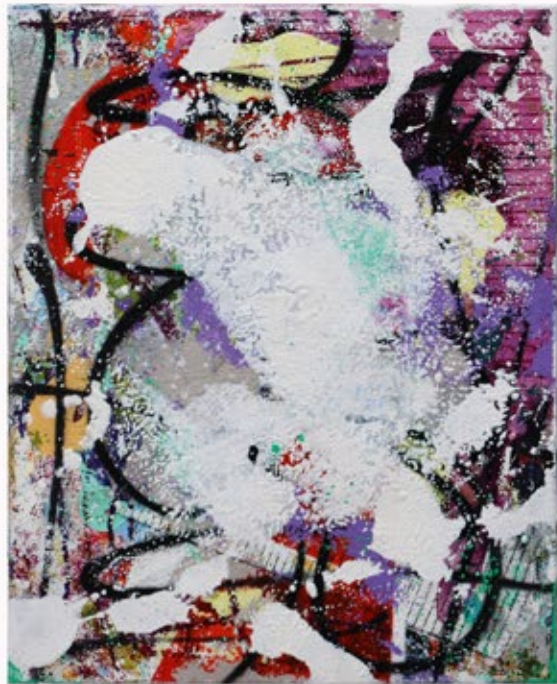
La omnipresencia de la línea.

"Para mí, la pintura, al igual que el baile, puede ser una expresión sensual. Es esencial liberar el cuerpo y disfrutar del movimiento, pintando sin perder el equilibrio y llevando el ritmo de manera natural. Este enfoque traslada la danza a la tela, acentuando la ensoñación corpórea que emana de las figuras. A veces, el gesto pictórico se realiza desde el hombro para enfatizar la curva, otras veces con la muñeca para indagar en el detalle, o con el movimiento del brazo en su totalidad para arrojar pintura o realizar un *dripping* (goteo). El resultado final puede ser percibido como abstracto por algunos espectadores y como figurativo por otros. Sin embargo, no establezco una distinción clara entre ambas visiones; para mí es todo lo mismo. Mi objetivo es expresar una perspectiva pendular que se mueve entre lo concreto y lo infinito, entre lo tangible y lo etéreo, en un constante estado de flujo."

Adrián NAVARRO

Tríptico (Galaxia #1, #2, #3)
2024

Oil, acrylic spray paint and oil pencil on canvas
Óleo, pintura de espray acrílica y lápiz de óleo sobre lienzo
Signed, dated and titled on the reverse
50 x 150 cm | 19.7 x 59.1 in
Each panel: 50 x 40 cm | 19.7 x 15.7 in



Galaxia #4

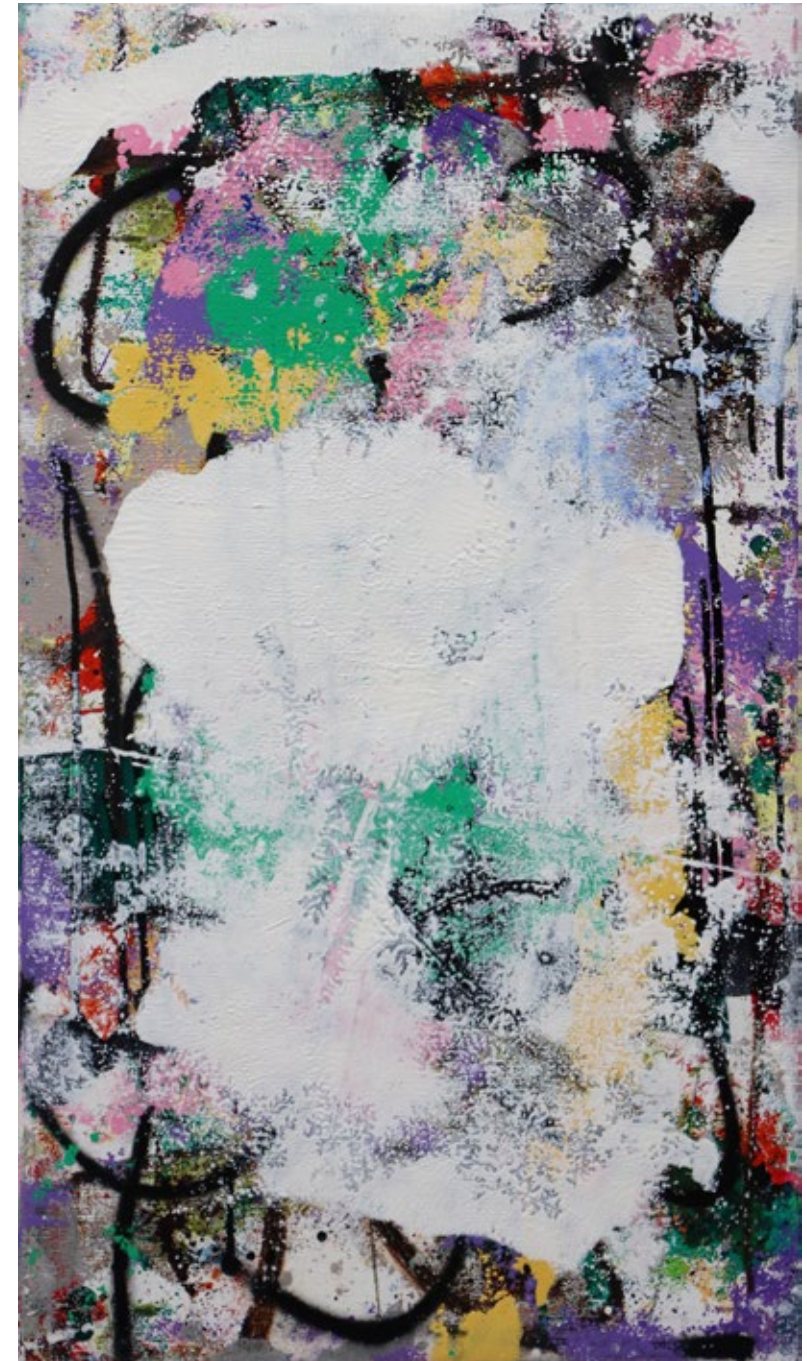
2024

Oil, acrylic spray paint and oil pencil on canvas

Óleo, pintura de espray acrílica y lápiz de óleo sobre lienzo

Signed, dated and titled on the reverse

70 x 40 cm | 27.6 x 15.7 in



Galaxia #5

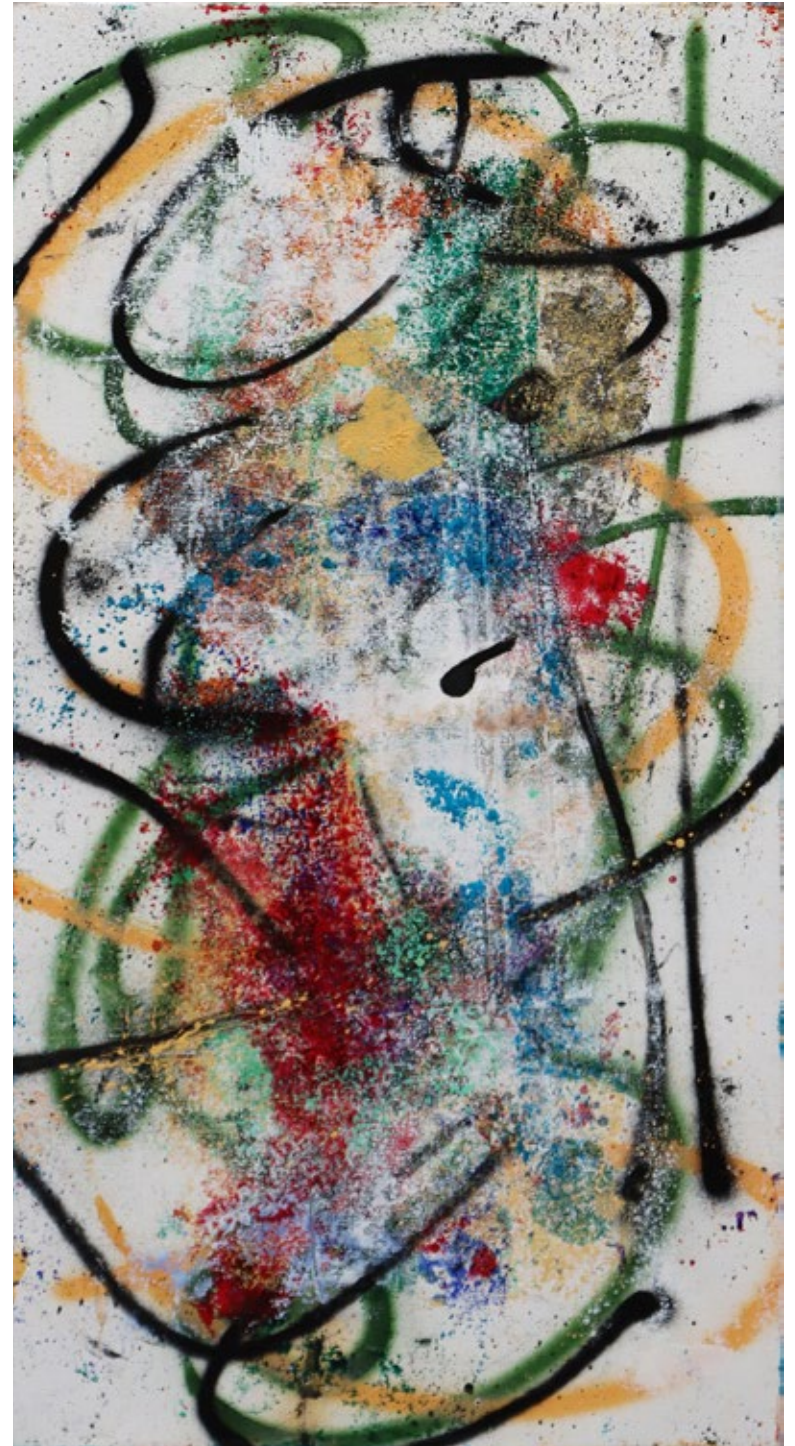
2024

Oil and acrylic spray paint on canvas

Óleo y pintura de espray acrílica sobre lienzo

Signed, dated and titled on the reverse

75 x 40 cm | 29.5 x 15.7 in



Galaxia #6

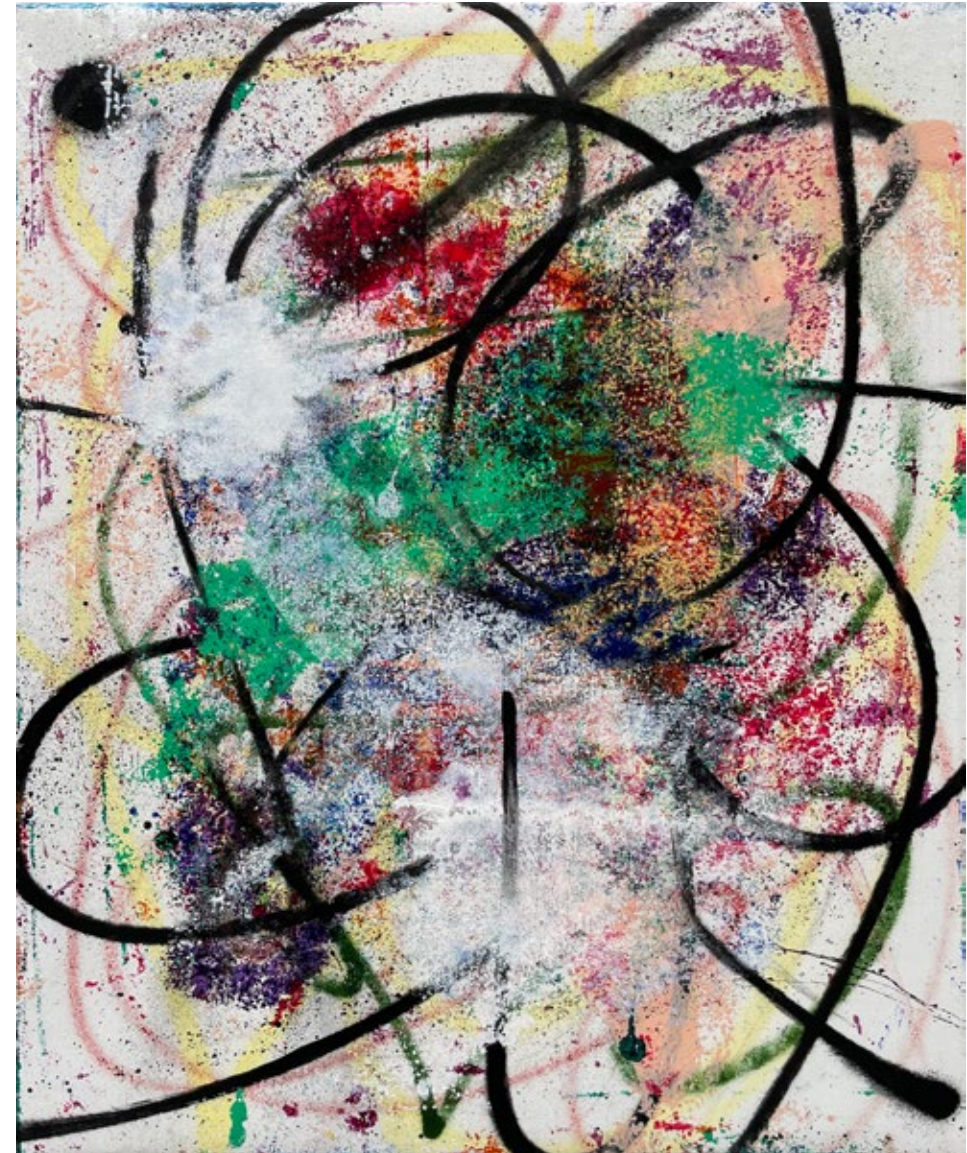
2024

Oil and acrylic spray paint on canvas

Óleo y pintura de espray acrílica sobre lienzo

Signed, dated and titled on the reverse

60 x 50 cm | 23.6 x 19.7 in



Galaxia #7

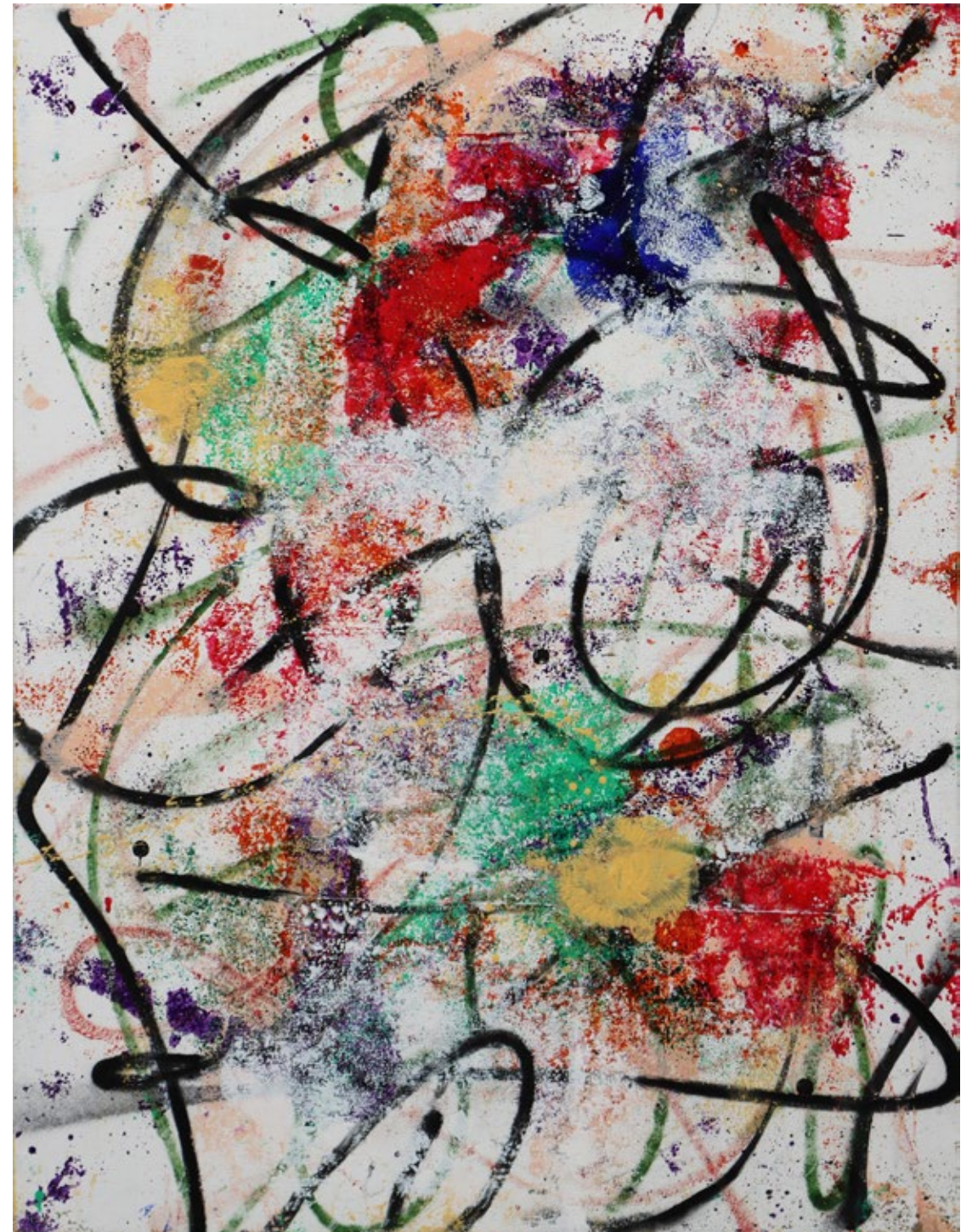
2024

Oil and acrylic spray paint on canvas

Óleo y pintura de espray acrílica sobre lienzo

Signed, dated and titled on the reverse

80 x 61 cm | 31.5 x 24 in



Galaxia #8

2024

Oil and acrylic spray paint on canvas
Óleo y pintura de espray acrílica sobre lienzo
Signed, dated and titled on the reverse
50 x 40 cm | 19.7 x 15.7 in



Galaxia #9

2024

Oil and acrylic spray paint on canvas
Óleo y pintura de espray acrílica sobre lienzo
Signed, dated and titled on the reverse
50 x 40 cm | 19.7 x 15.7 in



Galaxia #10

2024

Oil and acrylic spray paint on canvas
Óleo y pintura de espray acrílica sobre lienzo
Signed, dated and titled on the reverse
100 x 160 cm | 39.4 x 63 in







3.

**Uninhabited landscapes,
just human presence as an observer.**

"In my series 'Paraísos', I seek to evoke a mythical setting, an ideal place free from any direct human influence. In these landscapes, the harmony of the organic world is preserved intact, though the beholder may be a silent witness of what happens. I am interested in exploring the duality between a conflictive external and the inner world of the Paradise, characterised by peace, joy and harmony. This vision might be an allegory of the Garden of Eden, a place of fertility and abundance unattainable in the real world. But I also see it as my own personal paradise, a place I can identify with and where I feel free, my inner world. I let the spectator reach their own conclusions on the meaning of paradise in this series."

3.

**Paisajes despoblados,
solo presencia humana como observador.**

"En mi serie 'Paraísos', busco evocar un entorno mítico, un lugar ideal que está libre de la influencia humana directa. En estos paisajes, la armonía de un mundo orgánico se mantiene intacta, aunque el espectador pueda ser un testigo silencioso de lo que sucede. Me interesa explorar la dualidad entre un mundo exterior conflictivo y el interior del Paraíso, donde reinan el placer, la paz y la armonía. Esta visión puede ser una alegoría del Jardín del Edén, un espacio de fertilidad y abundancia inalcanzable en el mundo real. Pero también lo veo como mi propio paraíso personal, un espacio donde me siento identificado y libre, mi mundo interior. Dejo que el espectador forme sus propias conclusiones sobre el significado del paraíso en esta serie."

Adrián NAVARRO

Paraíso #7
2024

Oil, oil stick and oil pencil on canvas
Óleo, barra y lápiz de óleo sobre lienzo
Signed, dated and titled on the reverse
112 x 198 cm | 44.1 x 78 in



Paraíso #12

2024

Oil, acrylic spray paint, oil stick and oil pencil on canvas

Óleo, pintura de espray acrílica, barra y lápiz de óleo sobre lienzo

Signed, dated and titled on the reverse

130 x 210 cm | 51.2 x 82.7 in



Paraíso #9

2024

Oil, acrylic spray paint and oil pencil on canvas

Óleo, pintura de espray acrílica y lápiz de óleo sobre lienzo

Signed, dated and titled on the reverse

153 x 75 cm | 60.2 x 29.5 in



Paraíso #10

2024

Oil, acrylic spray paint and oil pencil on canvas

Óleo, pintura de espray acrílica y lápiz de óleo sobre lienzo

Signed, dated and titled on the reverse

200 x 180 cm | 78.7 x 70.9 in







4.

The return of Colour Fields.

"For me, painting is an expression of life, which is organic and by nature expansive. It not only reflects life but is also infused with it, obeying its own internal laws of change. This self-contained and self-referential process enables painting to metamorphose through successive phases until it takes on a dramatic tone. At this moment, painting proclaims its presence with a cry of self-assertion: 'Here I am!'. This process is visible and natural in my work, beginning with a throbbing beat in which each element generates a rhythm that leads to the following action, creating a constantly changing visual melody. With this continuous evolution I want my work to surprise me and force me to keep changing, to imbue the painting with life in order for it to be independent from me. To a large extent, this focus is aligned with the tradition of colour fields going back to Matisse and Rothko, where colour and form evolve and interact organically within the composition."

4.

El retorno de los *Colour Fields*.

"Para mí, la pintura es una expresión de vida, orgánica y expansiva por naturaleza. No solo refleja la vida, sino que está impregnada de ella, siguiendo sus propias leyes de transformación interna. Este proceso autónomo y auto referencial permite que la pintura se metamorfosee a través de etapas sucesivas hasta alcanzar un tono dramático. En ese momento, la pintura afirma su presencia con un grito de autoafirmación: '¡Aquí estoy!'. Este proceso es visible y natural en mi obra, comenzando con una pulsación donde cada elemento genera un ritmo que lleva a la siguiente acción, creando una melodía visual en constante evolución. Con esta evolución continua busco que la obra me sorprenda y me obligue a no estancarme, a dotar a la pintura de vida para que se pueda independizar de mí. Este enfoque se alinea, en gran medida, con la tradición de los campos de color de Matisse y Rothko, donde el color y la forma evolucionan e interactúan de manera orgánica dentro de la composición."

Adrián NAVARRO

Paraíso #5

2023

Oil, oil pencil and oil stick on canvas

Óleo, lápiz y barra de óleo sobre lienzo

Signed, dated and titled on the reverse

200 x 185 cm | 78.7 x 72.8 in



Paraíso #11

2024

Oil, acrylic spray paint, oil stick and oil pencil on canvas

Óleo, pintura de espray acrílica, barra y lápiz de óleo sobre lienzo

Signed, dated and titled on the reverse

200 x 200 cm | 78.7 x 78.7 in



Paraíso #15

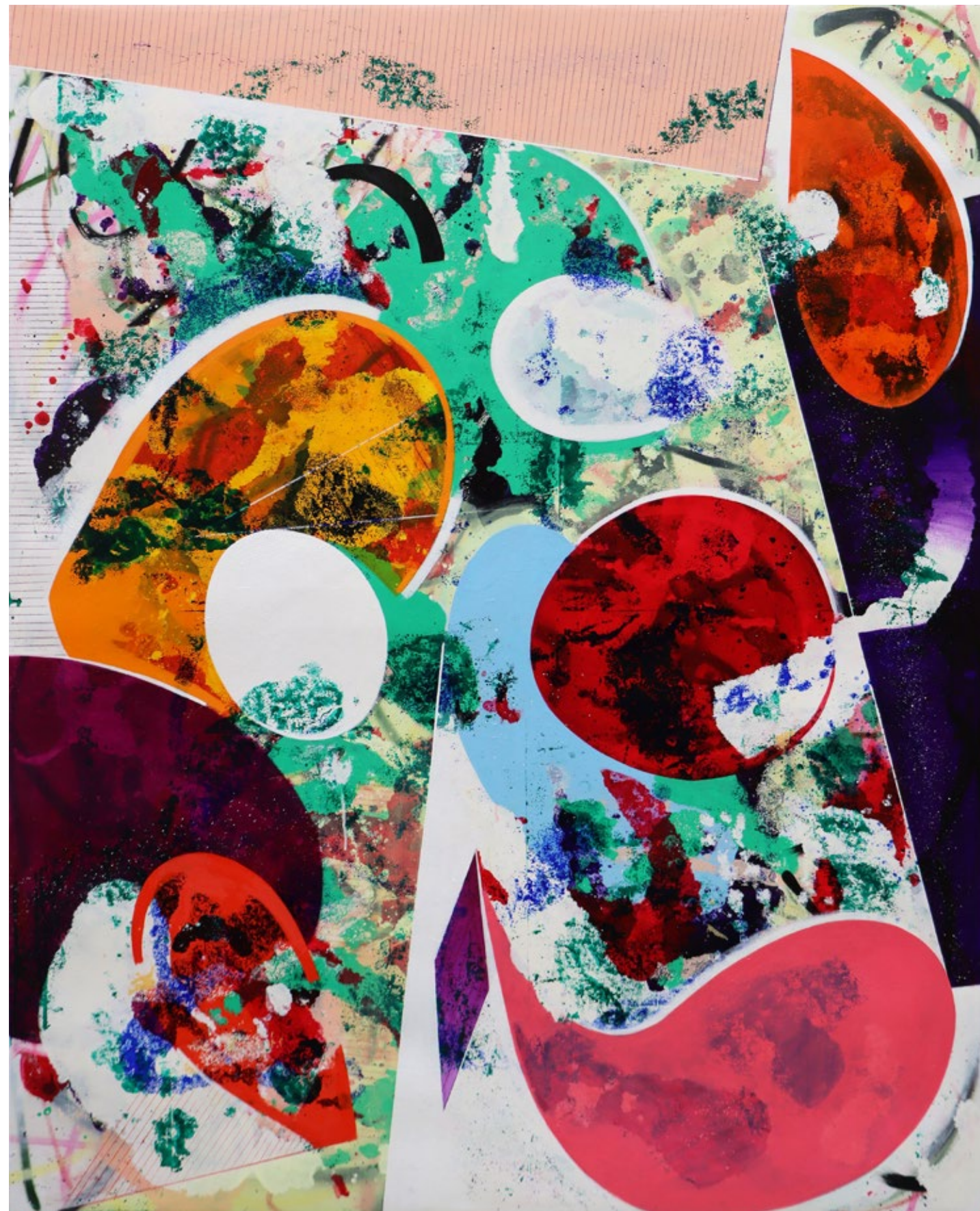
2024

Oil, acrylic spray paint and oil pencil on canvas

Óleo, pintura de espray acrílica y lápiz de óleo sobre lienzo

Signed, dated and titled on the reverse

162 x 130 cm | 63.8 x 51.2 in



Paraíso #17

2024

Oil, acrylic spray paint and oil pencil on canvas

Óleo, pintura de espray acrílica y lápiz de óleo sobre lienzo

Signed, dated and titled on the reverse

150 x 150 cm | 59.1 x 59.1 in







**5.
Colours:
a vivid and unrestrained palette.**

"Colour plays a central and dominant role in my paintings. Each colour can be seen as a character with its own personality, coexisting in the scene with other colours. Shapes are not simply coloured surfaces; their light seems to emerge from inside them, varying from opacity to transparency in a joyful choreography within the painting. This variability and vivacity of colour enhances the sense of motion and life within the painting, making the colours both an expression of emotions, with their *chiaroscuro*, as well as shapes with their different geometries."

**5.
Los colores:
paleta vívida e indómita.**

"En mis cuadros, el color juega un papel central y dominante. Cada color puede ser visto como un personaje con su propio protagonismo, cohabitando con otros colores en la escena. Las formas no son simplemente superficies coloreadas; su cualidad lumínica parece emerger desde el interior, variando desde la opacidad hasta la transparencia en una danza jubilosa dentro del cuadro. Esta variabilidad y vivacidad del color contribuyen a la sensación de movimiento y vida dentro de la pintura, haciendo que los colores sean tanto una expresión de emoción con sus claroscuros como de forma con sus diferentes geometrías."

Adrián NAVARRO

Paraíso #20

2024

Oil, acrylic spray paint and oil pencil on canvas

Óleo, pintura de espray acrílica y lápiz de óleo sobre lienzo

Signed, dated and titled on the reverse

120 x 100 cm | 47.2 x 39.4 in



2024

Óleo, pintura de espray acrílica y lápiz de óleo sobre lienzo

120 x 100 cm | 47.2 x 39.4 in



Paraíso #18

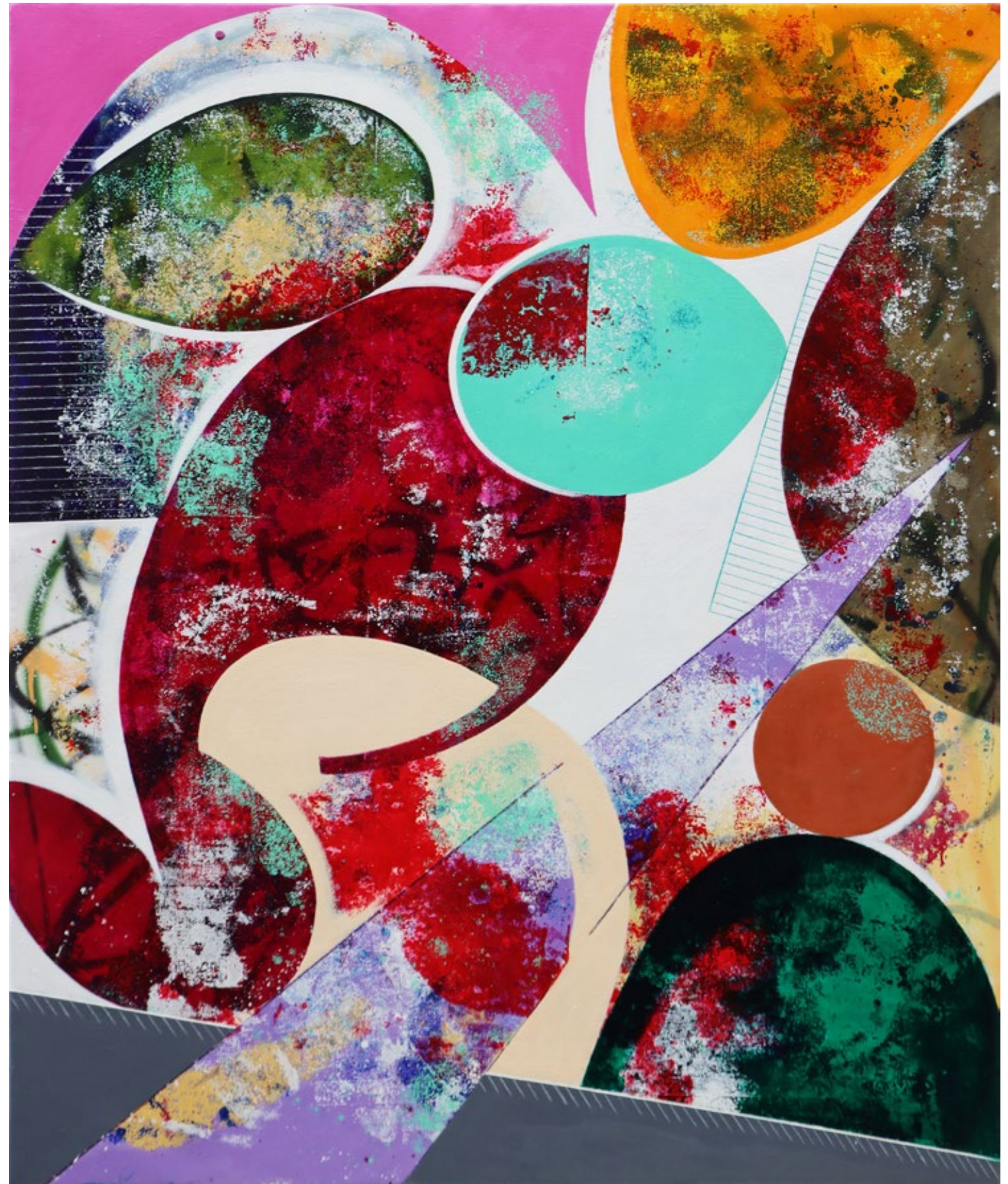
2024

Oil, acrylic spray paint and oil pencil on canvas

Óleo, pintura de espray acrílica y lápiz de óleo sobre lienzo

Signed, dated and titled on the reverse

120 x 100 cm | 47.2 x 39.4 in



Paraíso #21

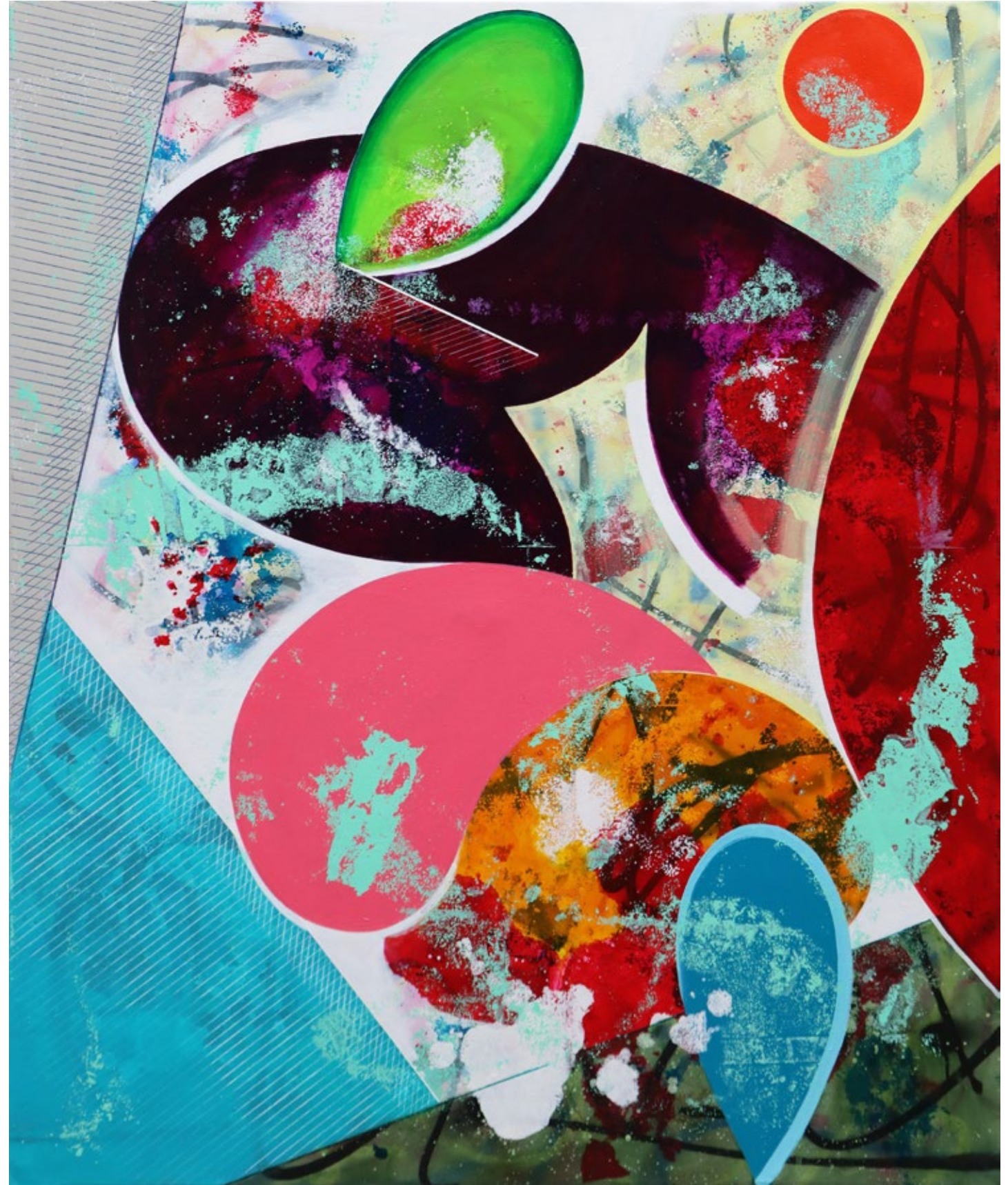
2024

Oil, acrylic spray paint and oil pencil on canvas

Óleo, pintura de espray acrílica y lápiz de óleo sobre lienzo

Signed, dated and titled on the reverse

120 x 100 cm | 47.2 x 39.4 in





Biography

Adrián Navarro (1973) was born in Boston and raised in Spain. He started his artistic career in New York in 2001, after graduating from the Polytechnic University of Madrid, School of Architecture. In 2008 Navarro completed his art studies at the Central Saint Martin's College of Art & Design in London where he settled down before going back to Madrid in 2016 where his studio is currently based. His formal training as an architect partially influences his work: Navarro seeks to expand the vocabulary of the visual arts, establishing connections between the pictorial medium, perception, architecture and abstraction.

Adrián Navarro has shown his artworks in a variety of international exhibitions and his work can be found in collections such as UBS Bank, Circa XX, Fundación ENAIRE and Caja Madrid.

Biografía

Adrián Navarro (1973) nació en Boston y creció en España. En 2001, Navarro comenzó su actividad artística en Nueva York, tras titularse como arquitecto por la Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Escuela de Arquitectura (ETSAM). En el año 2008 Navarro completó sus estudios artísticos en la Central Saint Martin's College of Art & Design de Londres, ciudad en la que se instaló hasta regresar a Madrid en 2016, donde actualmente vive y trabaja. Su formación académica como arquitecto influye parcialmente en su trabajo: Navarro persigue ampliar el vocabulario de las artes plásticas, estableciendo conexiones entre el medio pictórico, la percepción, la arquitectura y la abstracción.

Adrián Navarro ha expuesto en diversas exposiciones internacionales y su obra se encuentra en colecciones como UBS Bank, Circa XX, Fundación ENAIRE y Caja Madrid.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2024	‘Paraísos’, Opera Gallery, Madrid, Spain
2023	‘Doble Muro’, Espai d’Art Contemporani Salvador Soria, Benissa, Spain
2022	‘Muro’, Galería Daniel Cuevas, Madrid, Spain ‘Luz Blanca’, Galería Maior, Pollensa, Spain
2019	‘Interfaz’, Galería Maior, Pollensa, Spain
2018	‘Paraísos Artificiales’, Galería Pilar Serra, Madrid, Spain ‘Landschaft’, Da Mihi Gallery, Bern, Switzerland
2016	‘Raumzeit’, Maerz Contemporary, Berlin, Germany
2015	‘Rings & Fragments’, Da Mihi Gallery, Bern, Switzerland ‘Espacios y Loops’, Galería Maior, Palma de Mallorca, Spain
2014	‘Loops’, Galería Maior, Pollensa, Spain
2013	‘Espacio Rojo’, Galería Pilar Serra, Madrid, Spain
2012	‘Reflections’, Maerz Contemporary, Berlin, Germany ‘In & Out’, 60 Threadneedle Street Art Space, London, UK
2011	‘Ciclo Anillos’, Galería Pilar Serra, Madrid, Spain
2010	‘Ring Cycle’, VJB Arts, London, UK
2009	‘Implosión’, 60 Threadneedle Street Art Space, London, UK
2008	‘Common People’, Ada Street Gallery, London, UK
2007	‘Galaxia’, UBS Bank, Madrid, Spain
2006	‘Hombres y Salvajes’, Galería Artificial, Madrid, Spain
2004	‘Fuente’, Espacio F, Madrid, Spain
2001	‘De Diario’, Centro de Arte de la Comunidad de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

Selected Group Exhibitions

2023	‘Colours’, Opera Gallery, Madrid, Spain
2022	‘11 Years Anniversary’, Da Mihi Gallery, Bern, Switzerland
2021	‘Territorio Contemporáneo: Diversos lenguajes en la colección ENAIRE’, Naves de Gamazo, Santander, Spain
	‘Entornos y Reflexiones: Juan Uslé, Felicidad Moreno, Guillermo Pfaff, Adrián Navarro, Pepa Prieto, Secundino Hernández y Vicky Uslé’, Espacio ATLAS, Madrid, Spain
	‘De tal palo, tal astilla’, Sala Mauro Muriedas, Torrelavega, Spain
2016	‘Navarro & Lerín: New Work’, 12 Star Gallery, London, UK
2014	‘The Collection’, Eastmen Gallery, Hasselt, Belgium
2013	‘Geometry of Chance’, Mirus Gallery, San Francisco, USA
	‘Premiere’, Maerz Contemporary, Berlin, Germany
2012	‘Cómplices del arte español’, Fundación Canal, Madrid, Spain
2011	‘Colectiva I’, Galería Pilar Serra, Madrid, Spain
	‘Sagacity’, Smoke House Gallery, London, UK
2010	‘Pintura y Escultura’, Galería Pilar Serra, Madrid, Spain
	‘La Perruque’, Hackey Wicked Festival, London, UK
2007	‘SALON 07’, Seven Seven Contemporary, London, UK
	‘ART UNWRAPPED’, Mother Studios, London, UK
2005	‘Todos mis amigos han muerto’, Galería Casa Borne, Antequera, Spain
2004	‘Generación 2004’, Premios y Becas de Arte Caja Madrid, Madrid, Spain
2003	‘Hernández, Navarro, Mastretta’, Heinrich Ehrhardt Gallery, Madrid, Spain
2002	‘Jóvenes creadores’, Luis Adelantado Gallery, Valencia, Spain

1.



8
Paraíso #8
2024



22
Galaxia #4
2024



24
Galaxia #5
2024



26
Galaxia #6
2024



10
Paraíso #14
2024



12
Paraíso #16
2024



14
Paraíso #13
2024



28
Galaxia #7
2024



30
Galaxia #8
2024



32
Galaxia #9
2024

2.



20
Triptico (Galaxia #1, #2, #3)
2024



34
Galaxia #10
2024

3.



40
Paraíso #7
2024



42
Paraíso #12
2024



56
Paraíso #15
2024



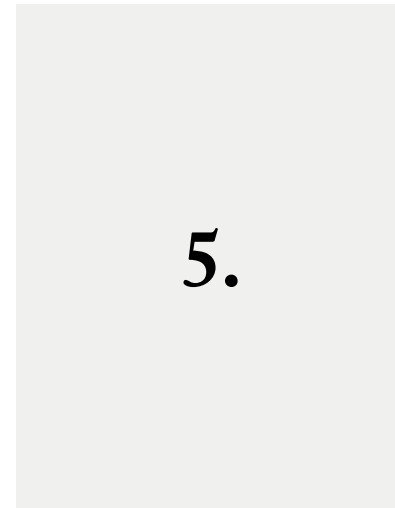
58
Paraíso #17
2024



44
Paraíso #9
2024



46
Paraíso #10
2024



68
Paraíso #18
2024



64
Paraíso #20
2024



66
Paraíso #19
2024

4.



52
Paraíso #5
2023



54
Paraíso #11
2024



70
Paraíso #21
2024

This exhibition was created for the exhibition
Adrián Navarro, 'Paraísos'
Presented by Opera Gallery Madrid
from 12 September – 19 October, 2024

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
We extend our gratitude to all the individuals who contributed
to this extraordinary exhibition.

CURATOR
Belén Herrera Ottino

COORDINATION
Anne Pampin

RESEARCH
Anaïs Chombar
María Collar
Andréa Dubois
Iñigo Herranz Ketterer
Victoria Lozano
Anne Pampin
Elena Yélamos

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Willie Kaminski

PROOFREADING
Anaïs Chombar
María Collar
Andréa Dubois
Iñigo Herranz Ketterer
Victoria Lozano
Anne Pampin
Elena Yélamos

CREDITS
Artworks and studio photography © Adrián Navarro
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COVER
Adrián Navarro, *Paraíso #10*, 2024

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OPERA GALLERY

C/ Serrano, 56, 28001 Madrid
T. + 34 810 831 308
madrid@operagallery.com
operagallery.com

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C/ Serrano, 56, 28001 Madrid