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Press Release

DENNIS MIRANDA ZAMORANO FALLING UPWARDS

24 November 2023 - 6 January 2024
Galerie Marguo, 4 rue des Minimes, 75003 Paris



Galerie Marguo is proud to present *Falling Upwards*, an exhibition by Mexican artist Dennis Miranda Zamorano. On view from 24 November 2023 to 6 January 2024, this is the artist's first solo exhibition with the gallery.

Through painting and drawing, Dennis Miranda Zamorano's work materially and metaphysically grapples with the slippery passages between painting and image, figuration and abstraction, language and meaning. Through an intensely physical process, Zamorano attempts to prolong this fall: the negotiation between the thing-in-itself (an encounter, object, or memory) and its representation.

Oneiric, intensely colorful and tactile, these landscapes depict trees, rivers, houses, and a fable-like cast of animals in varying degrees of legibility. The figure of the monkey - a semantic play on the homonymic slipperiness between *simian* and *similar* - is particularly present across several works, signaling the artifice and limits of representation in and of itself. *Ceci n'est pas un singe*. At the same time, these monolithic tableaux are inescapably material. They are formed by the accretion of hundreds of layers of house paints, oils, acrylics, and watercolor, from which the pictorial elements are excavated via abrasion, scoring, power washing, chemical dissolvment and the naturally corrosive elements of the outdoors, where the artist stores his canvases while working between them simultaneously. Created over a five-month period, the works in this show are thus linked to the provisional temporal context in which they were made and the passage of time itself.

Both the themes of Zamorano's work and his technical approach to color, subject, and composition are informed by his upbringing in La Lagunilla, one of Mexico City's historic open-air markets, where his family has worked for generations. For the artist, the dynamism and ephemerality of the marketplace, with its encounters and disputes, economies of objects, aesthetics, and desires are analogous to the act of constructing a painting. Like the marketplace, the canvas is a site of grappling and negotiation between the infinite choices that

constitute a work of art. Kant likened the state of anxiety induced by the freedom of infinite choice to the sensation of dizziness caused by standing on the precipice of an abyss. Dizziness, or confusion, has been conceptualized by philosophers since antiquity, for its unique position as both an intellectual and visceral phenomenon; and as a state of being that engulfs both definitions of the word *sense*, i.e. meaning *and* feeling. This destabilizing condition has the potential to create a generative 'ground of ambiguity, non-separation and communication of opposites among each other'¹ out of which new experiences and perspectives may emerge.

The paintings' multilayered surfaces encourage this state in the viewer by eliminating the fixed ground, or the division between background and foreground, thereby creating an illusion of infinite depth and bottomlessness. Several of the more layered, corroded and thus abstract works, like *La niña blanca, I don't know. This has always been the case*, or *This was supposedly a castle*, dispense with vanishing points altogether, obfuscating the stabilizing, linear perspective, like that of the horizon at sea, to further stoke disorientation. Yet without a horizon or stable ground, falling can feel like floating. In trying to take in these mesmerizingly complex abstractions, one discovers that the image is always already there. The act of creation is one of retrieval, and vice versa. Of an attempt to find one's way back to a starting point that no longer exists; to that initial intuition, that leap into the abyss, that sets the painting into motion.

About the artist

Dennis Miranda Zamorano (b.1993) lives and works in Mexico City, Mexico. His work investigates a multitude of material and conceptual approaches towards unexpected depictions of the human form and reflections on the human condition. Zamorano is a self-taught artist who considers himself a product of a tradition called *El Tianguis*, an open-air market business that has long been the alternative for the survival of countless Mexican entrepreneurs.

His recent solo exhibitions include: *Falling Upwards*, Galerie Marguo (Paris, FR 2023); *Ongoing portraits Chapter I*, Galleria Furiosa (Mexico City, MX 2021) and *Ongoing portraits Chapter II*, IMAGINE GALLERY (San Miguel de Allende, MX 2021); *Los Relatos del Rostro*, AppArt (Paris, FR 2018); *LANDSCAPE*, The Tiny Box Project (San Miguel de Allende, MX 2017); *For Here or to Go*, WNDO space (Los Angeles, CA 2017); *El Límite de la Risa*, IMAGINE GALLERY (San Miguel de Allende, MX 2016); and *My American Experience*, WNDO Space (Los Angeles, CA 2014).

Zamorano has participated in group shows internationally, including: *Home Run*, Casa Marguo (Menorca, ES 2023); *Nadie Aterriza*, Save the Artist (Mexico City, MX 2023); *TRÁMITE*, Buró de coleccionistas (Querétaro, MX 2022); *this is Not a Curated Exhibition*, Galleria Rama (Milan, IT, 2022); *Subasta, Arte Vivo*, Museo JUMEX, Museo de Arte Moderno (Mexico City, MX 2021); *A Quiet Place*, Trapo Galería, Instituto Cultural de León (Guanajuato, MX 2019); *Se nos Hizo Tarde*, Espacio UNIÓN (Mexico City, MX 2019); *Trastornos localizados*, Galería Luis Adelantado (Mexico City, MX 2018); *7102. Fantasma Semiótico Situacionista*, Museo de Arte Carrillo Gill (Mexico City, MX 2018); and *ABSURDAS*, Galería Autónoma at the Facultad de Artes y Diseño UNAM (Mexico City, MX 2016), among many others.

Zamorano is a member of the artist collective Colectivo ABSURDAS (Mexico City, MX) and co-founder of the Librería Informal, a contemporary art library in the Tianguis LAGUNILLA. In 2019 he was awarded a residency at Art House Holland (Leiden, NE) and 2018 he was an artist-in-residence at Zona-Seis, Galería Luis Adelantado (Mexico City, MX).

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Dennis Miranda Zamorano
A landscape anchored in memory is a labyrinth, 2023
Mixed media on canvas
190 x 190 cm (74 3/4 x 74 3/4 in)

¹ François Jullien