



LnS GALLERY

Illusions Confronted

BOOTH 129

EXPO
CHGO

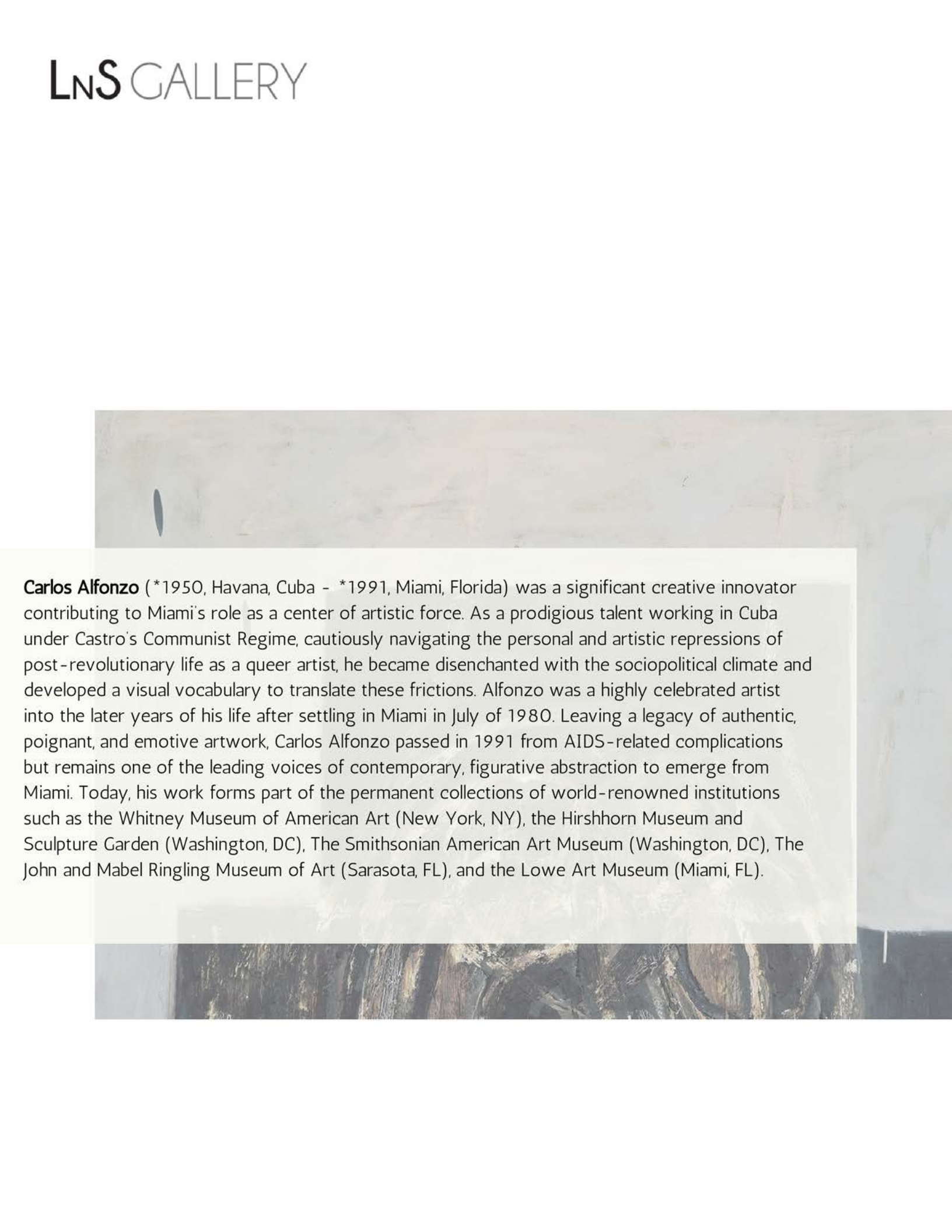
04.13.23 - 04.16.23

Illusions Confronted is a collective of six artists focusing on the ephemeral qualities of the human experience as they manifest across the 20th and 21st century.

The roster includes **Carlos Alfonzo**, **Ernesto Briel**, and **Rafael Soriano**, alongside **Natalia Garcia-Lee**, **T. Elliott Mansa**, and **Tony Vazquez-Figueroa** and more.

This grouping of artists each engage with their personal philosophies as landing points to explore reality, manifested through their distinctive styles.

Illusions Confronted reveals consistencies between the artists narratives in their explorations of dimension, objectivity, behavior, and introspection.



Carlos Alfonzo (*1950, Havana, Cuba - *1991, Miami, Florida) was a significant creative innovator contributing to Miami's role as a center of artistic force. As a prodigious talent working in Cuba under Castro's Communist Regime, cautiously navigating the personal and artistic repressions of post-revolutionary life as a queer artist, he became disenchanted with the sociopolitical climate and developed a visual vocabulary to translate these frictions. Alfonzo was a highly celebrated artist into the later years of his life after settling in Miami in July of 1980. Leaving a legacy of authentic, poignant, and emotive artwork, Carlos Alfonzo passed in 1991 from AIDS-related complications but remains one of the leading voices of contemporary, figurative abstraction to emerge from Miami. Today, his work forms part of the permanent collections of world-renowned institutions such as the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York, NY), the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (Washington, DC), The Smithsonian American Art Museum (Washington, DC), The John and Mabel Ringling Museum of Art (Sarasota, FL), and the Lowe Art Museum (Miami, FL).



CARLOS ALFONZO

Untitled (from the Pulpo series), 1990

oil on linen

84 x 84 inches

213.6 x 213.6 cm



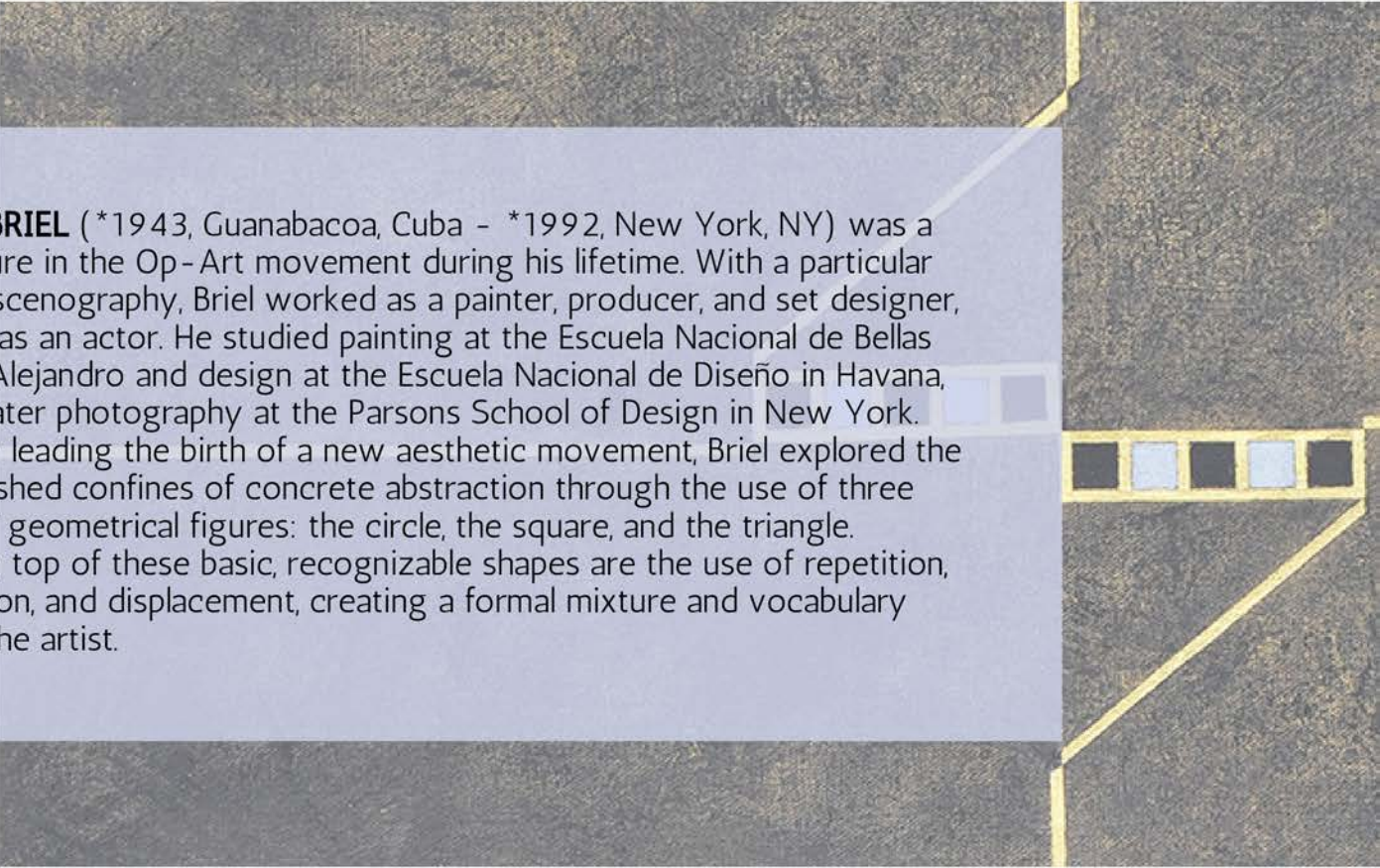
CARLOS ALFONZO

Untitled (Head) Witness, 1990

oil on canvas

36 x 30 inches

91.4 x 76.2 cm



ERNESTO BRIEL (*1943, Guanabacoa, Cuba - *1992, New York, NY) was a leading figure in the Op-Art movement during his lifetime. With a particular interest in scenography, Briel worked as a painter, producer, and set designer, and briefly as an actor. He studied painting at the Escuela Nacional de Bellas Artes San Alejandro and design at the Escuela Nacional de Diseño in Havana, Cuba, and later photography at the Parsons School of Design in New York. Rather than leading the birth of a new aesthetic movement, Briel explored the pre-established confines of concrete abstraction through the use of three elementary geometrical figures: the circle, the square, and the triangle. Layered on top of these basic, recognizable shapes are the use of repetition, superposition, and displacement, creating a formal mixture and vocabulary unique to the artist.



ERNESTO BRIEL

El Faraón, 1987

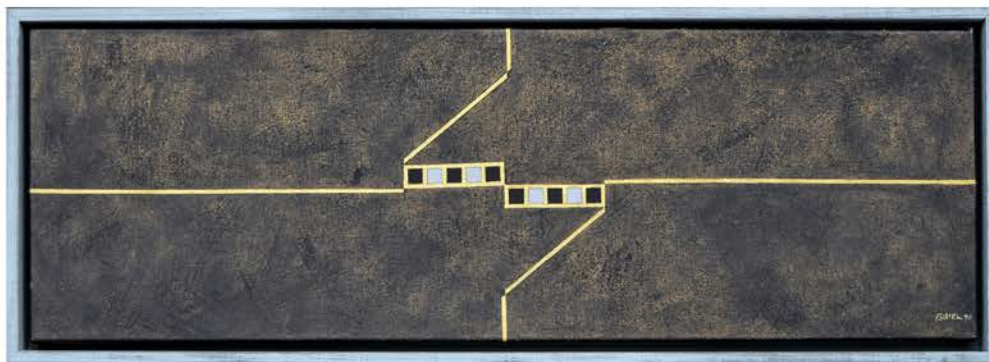
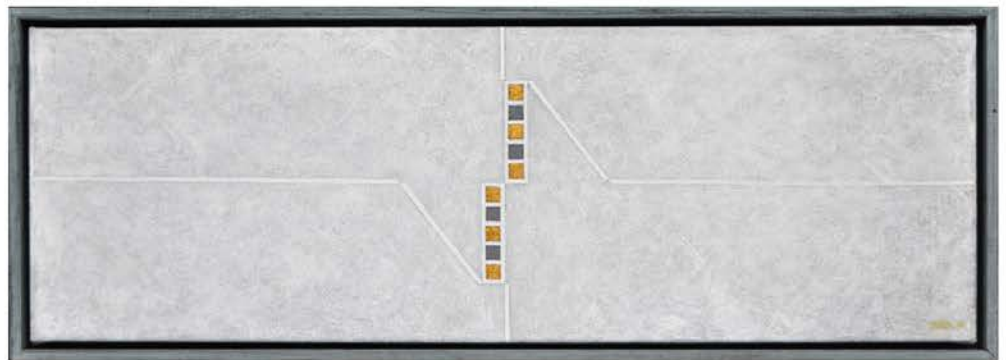
acrylic on canvas

48 x 48 inches

121.9 x 121.9 cm

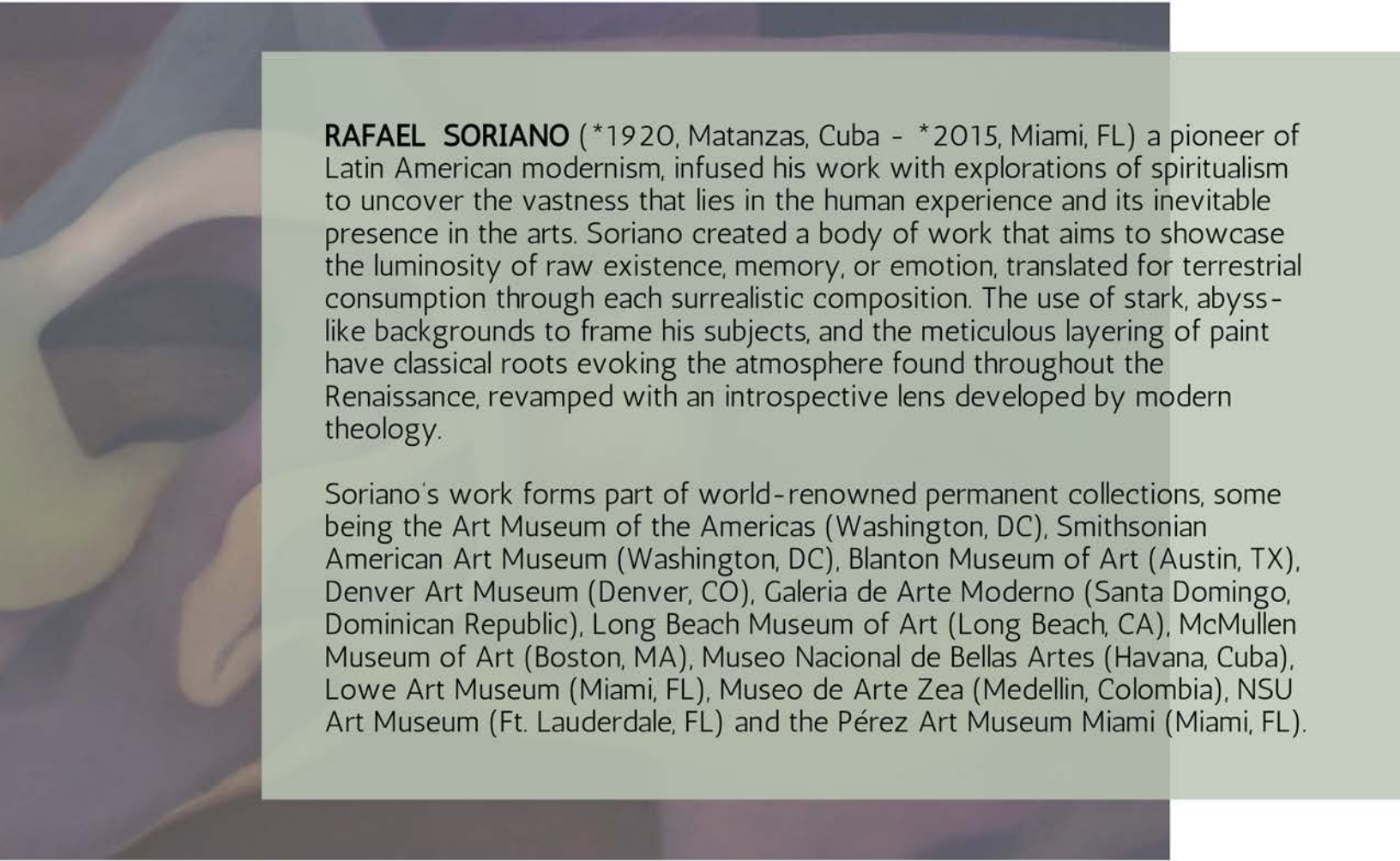
ERNESTO BRIEL

Day, 1990
acrylic on canvas
10 x 30 inches
25 x 76 cm



ERNESTO BRIEL

Night, 1990
acrylic on canvas
10 x 30 inches
25 x 76 cm



RAFAEL SORIANO (*1920, Matanzas, Cuba - *2015, Miami, FL) a pioneer of Latin American modernism, infused his work with explorations of spiritualism to uncover the vastness that lies in the human experience and its inevitable presence in the arts. Soriano created a body of work that aims to showcase the luminosity of raw existence, memory, or emotion, translated for terrestrial consumption through each surrealist composition. The use of stark, abyss-like backgrounds to frame his subjects, and the meticulous layering of paint have classical roots evoking the atmosphere found throughout the Renaissance, revamped with an introspective lens developed by modern theology.

Soriano's work forms part of world-renowned permanent collections, some being the Art Museum of the Americas (Washington, DC), Smithsonian American Art Museum (Washington, DC), Blanton Museum of Art (Austin, TX), Denver Art Museum (Denver, CO), Galeria de Arte Moderno (Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic), Long Beach Museum of Art (Long Beach, CA), McMullen Museum of Art (Boston, MA), Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (Havana, Cuba), Lowe Art Museum (Miami, FL), Museo de Arte Zea (Medellin, Colombia), NSU Art Museum (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and the Pérez Art Museum Miami (Miami, FL).



RAFAEL SORIANO

Preludio de un eclipse (Prelude to an Eclipse), 1996

oil on canvas

54 x 50 inches

137.2 x 127 cm



RAFAEL SORIANO

Cautiva ternura (Captive Tenderness), 1997

oil on canvas

50 x 50 inches

127 x 127 cm

NATALIA GARCIA-LEE (*1971, Madrid, Spain) has employed her practice to dissect the human species from biology to behavioral sciences. Her all-encompassing approach displays her visions of the literal, social, and ephemeral, mechanisms that structure the world we occupy. The body of work included for this focus presentation further explores this study and illuminates parallels across varying spheres of our natural and manmade worlds. The weight of Garcia-Lee's iconic and consistent use of layering – from collage to canvas – is amplified as the redactions and additions provide literal metaphors within the creation of her narrative of a timeless reality.





NATALIA GARCIA-LEE

: past of DO, 2023

mixed media collage on cotton watercolor paper

22 x 30 inches

55.9 x 76 cm



NATALIA GARCIA-LEE

: past of BE, 2023

mixed media collage on cotton watercolor paper

22 x 30 inches

55.9 x 76 cm



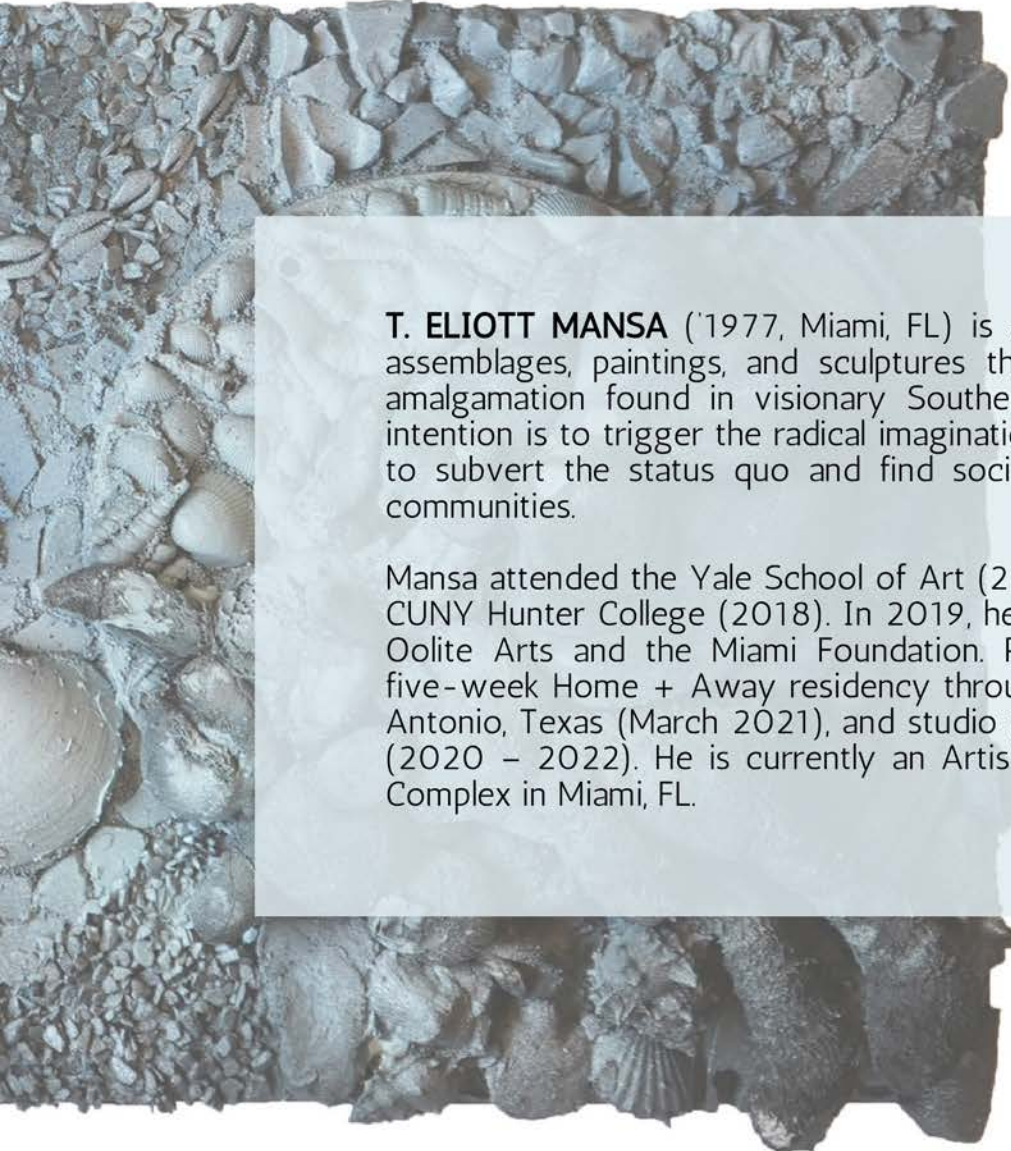
NATALIA GARCIA-LEE

The Building Of, 2021

oil on canvas

60 x 72 inches

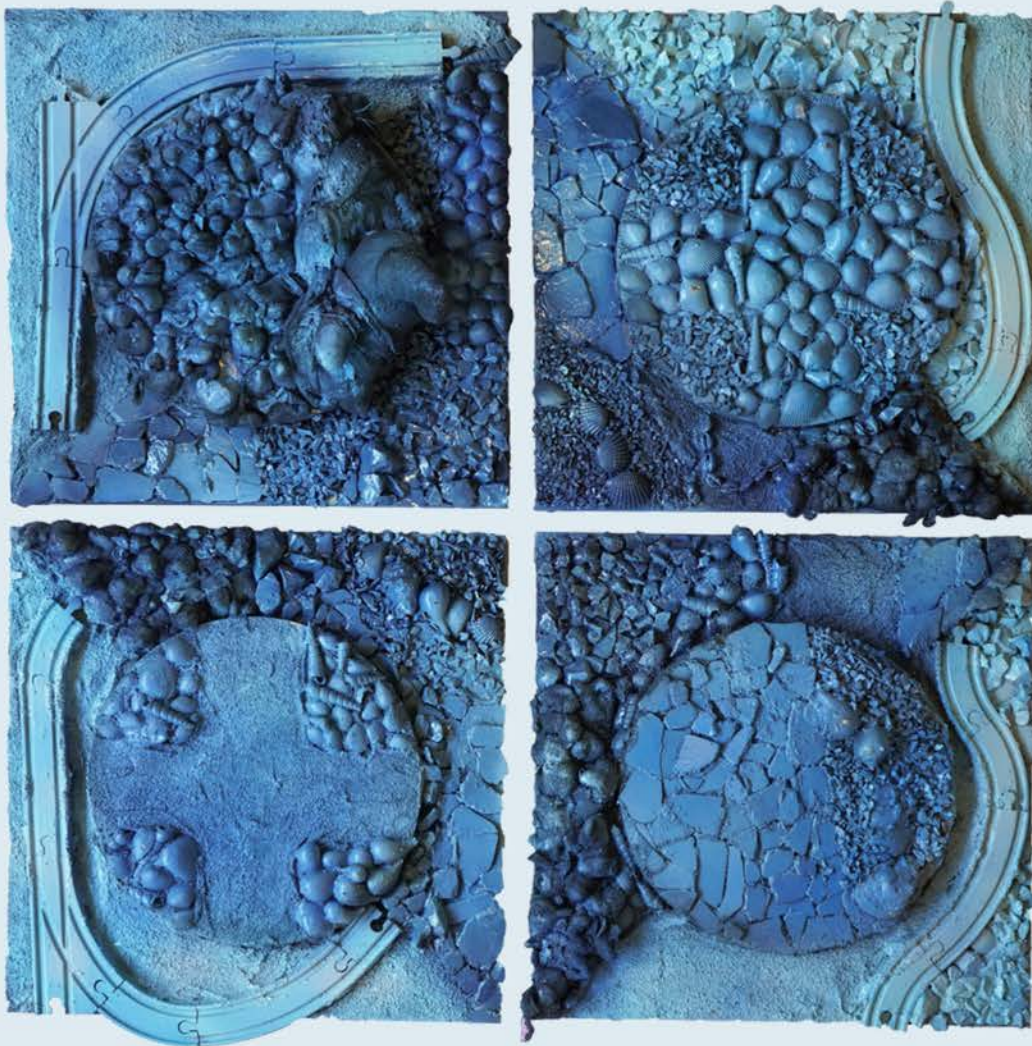
152.4 x 182.9 cm



T. ELLIOTT MANSA (1977, Miami, FL) is a multidisciplinary artist creating assemblages, paintings, and sculptures that incorporate the aesthetic of amalgamation found in visionary Southern vernacular sculpture. Mansa's intention is to trigger the radical imagination of viewers, encouraging them to subvert the status quo and find socio-political agency in their own communities.

Mansa attended the Yale School of Art (2013) and received his MFA from CUNY Hunter College (2018). In 2019, he received a Creator Award from Oolite Arts and the Miami Foundation. Previous residencies include the five-week Home + Away residency through Oolite Arts at Artpace in San Antonio, Texas (March 2021), and studio at Oolite Arts in Miami Beach, FL (2020 – 2022). He is currently an Artist in Residence at Bakehouse Art Complex in Miami, FL.

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T. ELIOTT MANSA

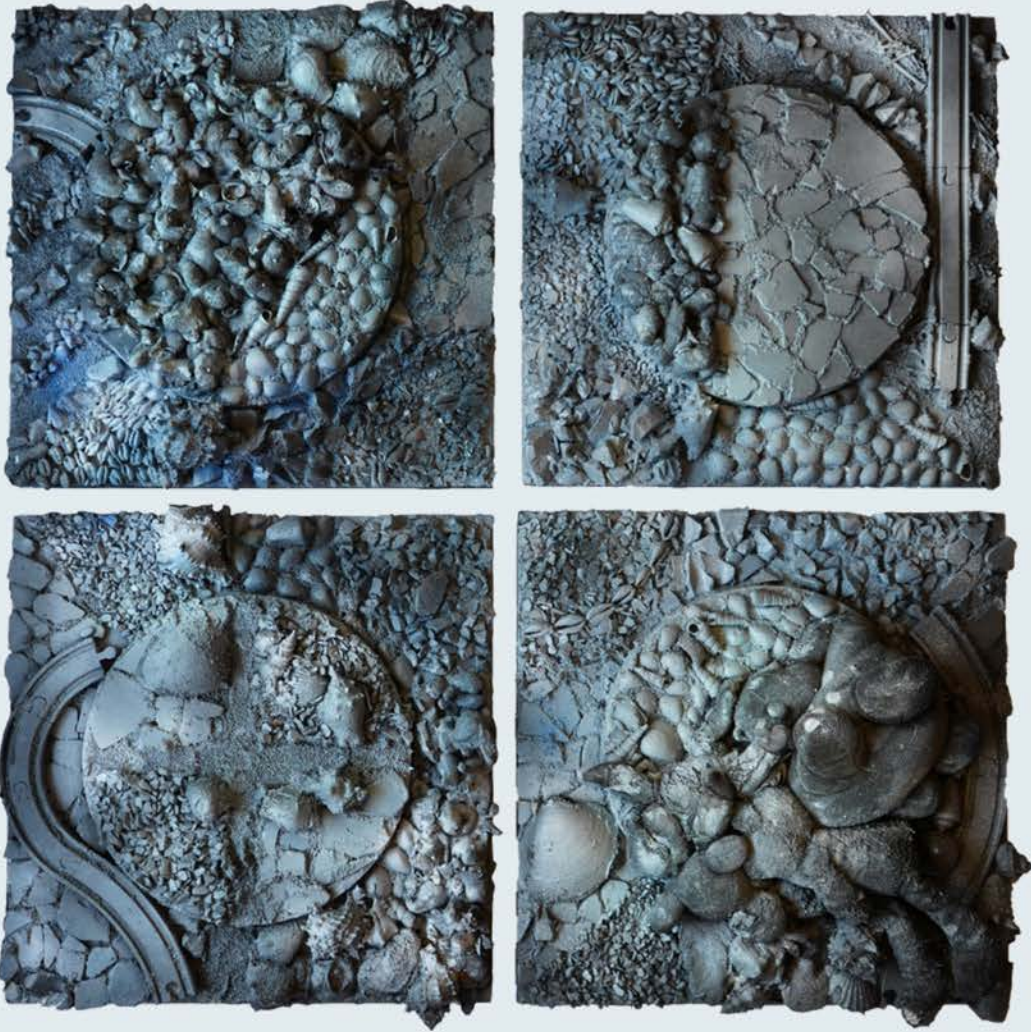
For Moments of the Sun II, 2022

stuffed animals, pebbles, seashells, and train tracks on wood

40 x 40 x 10 inches

101.6 x 101.6 x 25.4 cm

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T. ELIOTT MANSA

For Moments of the Sun III, 2022

stuffed animals, pebbles, seashells, and train tracks on wood

40 x 40 x 10 inches

101.6 x 101.6 x 25.4 cm

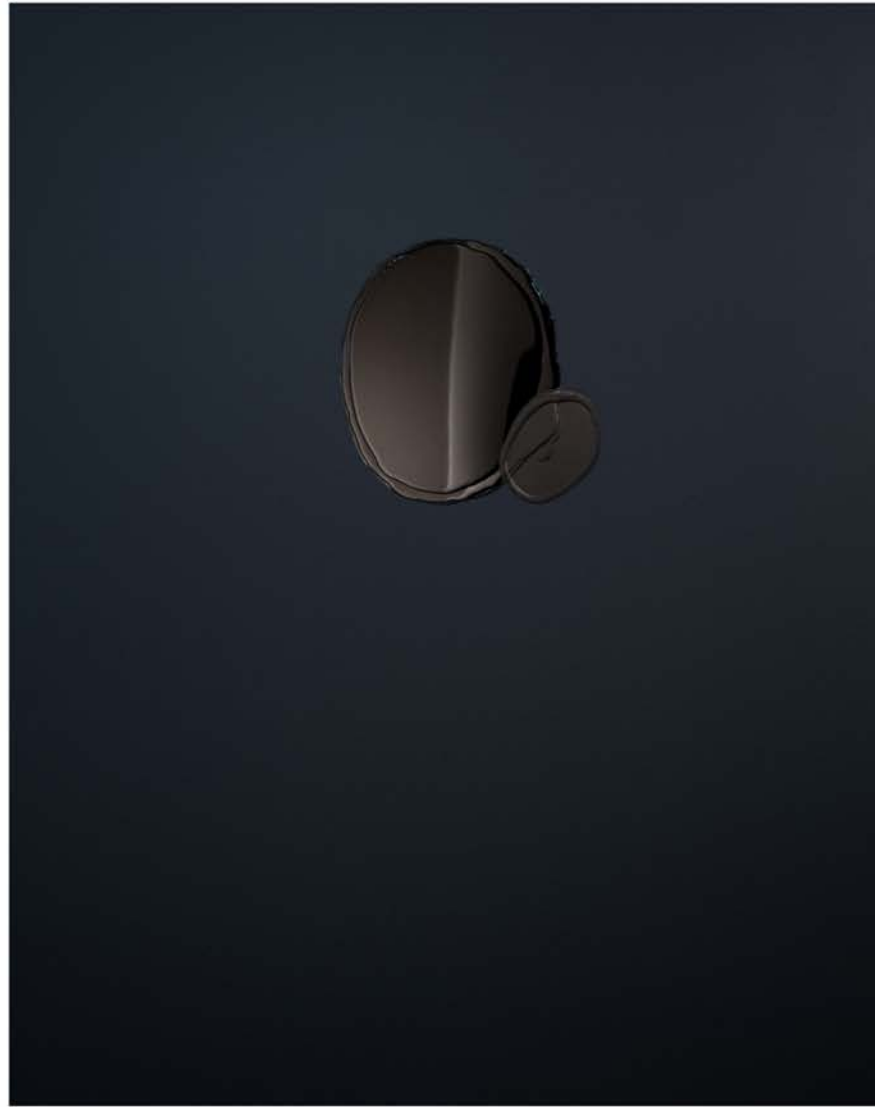


T. ELLIOTT MANSA

For Those Gathered in the Wind XV, 2019
stuffed animals, plastic flowers, toy cars, nails,
belts, and acrylic on wood
12 x 14 x 6 1/2 inches
30.5 x 35.6 x 16.5 cm



Through a diverse, multimedia and conceptually driven practice, **TONY VAZQUEZ-FIGUEROA** (*1970, Caracas, Venezuela) morphs the formal elements of his work to transmit the ideas and palpability of collective memories from a personal archive derived from his early life in Venezuela. As a country dependent on the Petroleum industry, the sticky substantiveness of the material has seeped into the socioeconomic fibers of a country saturated by this consumerist stronghold. The works featured display the facets of production and the lasting results of Venezuela's economic dependence, from wall mounted refinery sculptures executed with a touch of modernism, to intervened photographs and reflective void-like paintings that force one to mediate on their place within the machine.



TONY VAZQUEZ-FIGUEROA

Black Mirror Painting F, 2022

resin and acrylic on canvas

60 x 48 inches

152.4 x 121.9 cm

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TONY VAZQUEZ-FIGUEROA

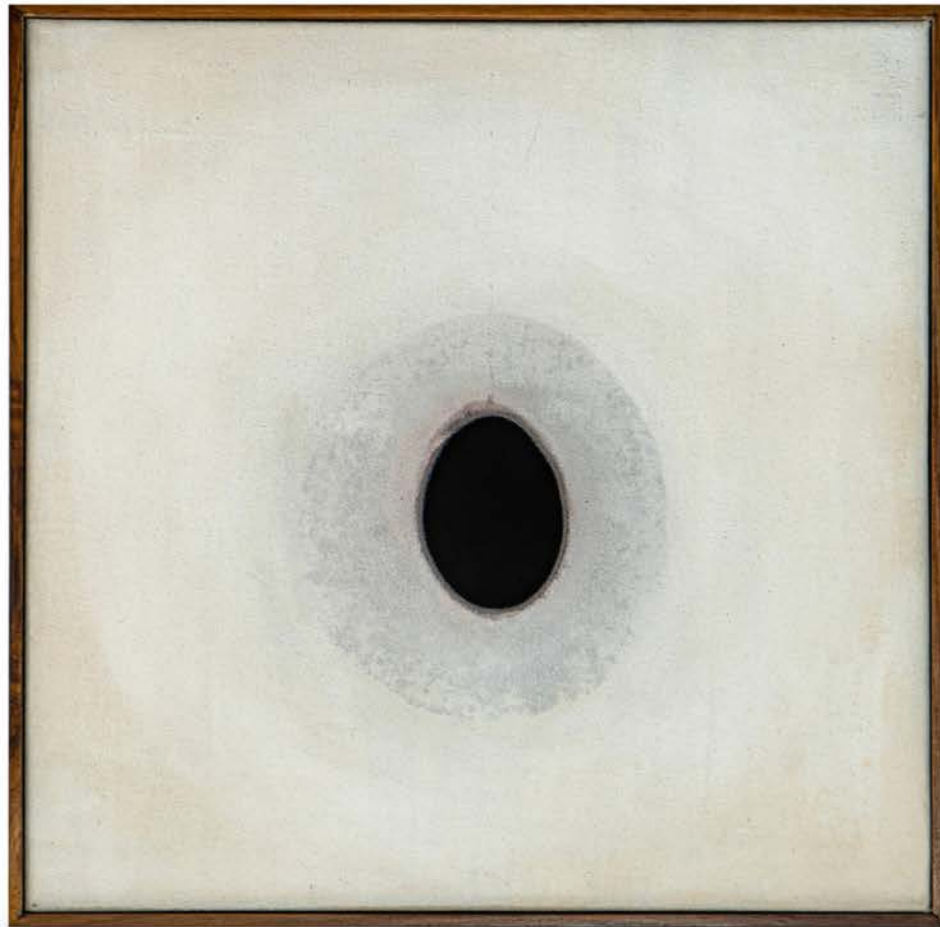
Archive Fever / New Ideal Discourse, 2022

resin on archival print

edition of 3 + 2 AP

27 1/2 x 44 inches

69.9 x 53.3 cm



TONY VAZQUEZ-FIGUEROA

Ondoing / Excavation VI-B, 2023

resin and acrylic paint on canvas

19 x 19 1/2 inches

48.3 x 49.4 cm

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The International Exposition of
Contemporary & Modern Art
Navy Pier, 600 E Grand Avenue
Chicago, IL

VIP PREVIEW

Thursday, April 13
12:00pm - 9:00pm CDT

OPENING HOURS

Friday, April 14
11:00am - 7:00pm CDT
Saturday, April 15
11:00am - 7:00pm CDT
Sunday, April 16
11:00am - 6:00pm CDT

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