

Press release

**ADRIAN NAVARRO**

*Paraísos Artificiales/Artificial Paradises*

27 October – 28 November, 2018

Opening, 27 October, from 12 am to 3 pm.

Adrián Navarro (Boston, 1973) is returning to Madrid after several years of living in London and is exhibiting at the gallery for the third time. At his first exhibition in 2011, we presented the *Ciclo Anillos / Rings Cycle*, which had previously been shown at the Hammerson Art Space in London: rings that gravitated in the space, a play of volumes and a contrast of the inside and the outside that shows the wish to emphasise the universal contradictions in which humankind develops. His work explores the dichotomy between physical confinement and expansive freedom inherent to organic painting and therefore, by extension, to human beings. According to the artist himself, “Man is an alienated being who thinks he is free. The same occurs in painting; it is a free, expressive means, the purpose of which is to communicate a view of the world, where this freedom is not possible. This is the paradox I am trying to represent”.

The relationship of the work with the space, the feeling that its images float in a rhythmic way, the perception that we could move through them surely must come from the artist’s training, as he studied Architecture. Although he has always preferred to devote his time to painting, there is no doubt about its influence on his view of the world. The tension produced between a highly complex painterly interior, and the outside, which usually is a grid of white dots that give the feeling of containing an organic material that wants to overflow, but that never manages to, remaining wrapped in this skin of mesh, both beautiful and mysterious.

His second show at the gallery was in 2013: a series under the title of *Espacio Rojo / Red Space*, in which colour took on a special role. The monochromatic pictorial substance was transformed into energy matter, creating a warm, sensual, intense atmosphere, which was even dramatic. Red in all its variations, from scarlet to crimson, passing through cadmium to alizarin, reflected his interest in achieving brushstrokes that were looser, more spontaneous and natural. New sensations would be found through colour, sensations that “only painting is going to provoke; there is no other medium to do this”, according to the artist.

This time, we are exhibiting a new series in which an evolution in Navarro’s vision can clearly be perceived. These new paintings are a result of a highly fruitful period of reflection that shows the significant maturity reached by the artist. The exhibition is called *Paraísos Artificiales / Artificial Paradises*, in an allusion to the landscapes glimpsed through a fabric that is now denser, where the background is blurred, semi-hidden, suggestive... His paintings are more contained, more mysterious, where colour has lost its starring role to a white that partially covers the surface. The curved lines create a rhythm as fundamental as the colour; the surface of the painting somewhat hides the complexity of the work from us. The result is a highly personal work, which is very rich in nuances and one of these pieces may be seen on the stand at the art fair, Estampa.

He started his artistic career in New York in 2011, after graduating as an architect from the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid. He established himself in London in 2006, where he completed his artistic studies at Central Saint Martin’s College of Art & Design. He has participated in several solo shows and international group exhibitions in both cities. He recently returned to Madrid, where he currently lives and works.

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