

An abstract painting by Luis Olaso, featuring bold, expressive brushstrokes in vibrant colors. The composition is dominated by a large, dark green area on the left, a bright yellow and orange area at the top, and a large, dark blue area with white polka dots on the right. The background is a mix of white, red, and black, with thin, dark lines crisscrossing the scene. The overall style is gestural and energetic.

20 ZONA
MACO.

7-11 FEBRUARY 2024

LUIS OLASO EN EL LAGO

BOOTH D106, MEXICO CITY

JD MALLAT
GALLERY

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MACO.

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En el lago, or *In the lake* in English, is a title that holds great weight in Spanish culture. Rich in symbolism deeply rooted in Spanish popular culture and music and blending Olaso's fascination with nature, this exhibition at the 2024 edition of Zona Maco showcases seven new oil paintings from the Bilbao-based artist depicting traditional still-life objects with a unique twist.

When thinking of nature, the lake holds a special place in Olaso's mind as it serves as an allegory of a meeting place. The serene yet magical lake is capable of bringing forth a dream-like universe, where everyday elements take on fresh colours and forms of highly expressive content. Yellows, blues, reds, and greens entwine and clash in Olaso's liberating mark-making process. The abstract portrayal of traditional still-life objects, while paying homage to Mexican artist Diego Rivera's calla lilies paintings, links the canvas with the non-physical space of the lake and the grander themes of life and death. With the lake acting as a catalyst, fusion happens in nature, signified by flowers and plants, bursting with life energy. Additionally, the ornamental elements, such as pots, jars, and vases are representatives of Spanish dining culture, reflecting an immersive social experience in Olaso's environment.

Challenging the expectations of still-life painting, Olaso is able to create uninhibited and visceral paintings reflecting both the purity and irrationality found in natural elements as well as in the subconscious self. Perhaps more accurately described as 'unstill' rather than 'still-life', this series of large-scale paintings by Luis Olaso captures a special personal moment in the artist's life, marking his reverence and fascination with the lush nature and vibrant Spanish culture in dining, music, garden, and beyond.







Composition for a ceramic vase with sunflowers, 2023
Oil, acrylic, oil bar and oil pastel on canvas
78 3/4 x 63 in, 200 x 160 cm

Composition for a basquet with Diego Rivera's bouquet of Callas, 2023
Oil, acrylic, oil bar and oil pastel on canvas
78 3/4 x 63 in, 200 x 160 cm





Composition for a white ceramic vase with flowers, 2023
Oil, acrylic, oil bar and oil pastel on canvas
78 3/4 x 63 in, 200 x 160 cm

Composition for a basquet with Diego Rivera's bouquet of Callas, 2023
Oil, acrylic, oil bar and oil pastel on canvas
78 3/4 x 63 in, 200 x 160 cm





Composition for a ceramic jug with a bouquet of flowers, 2023
Oil, acrylic, oil bar and oil pastel on canvas
78 3/4 x 63 in, 200 x 160 cm

Composition for a ceramic vase with flowers and banana tree leaves, 2023
Oil, acrylic, oil bar and oil pastel on canvas
78 3/4 x 63 in, 200 x 160 cm





Composition for a green painted ceramic vase with flowers, 2023
Oil, acrylic, oil bar and oil pastel on canvas
78 3/4 x 63 in, 200 x 160 cm

'Freedom in the use of colour is the principal element that allows me to recreate my own personal universe.

Flowers, plants and the everyday elements fuse with colour and gesture in this mystical and personal space that is "el lago"- the lake'.

- Luis Olaso, 2023



Luis Olaso

b. 1986 - Bilbao, Spain

Education

2018 BA Fine Arts, University of the Basque Country, Leioa, Biscay, Spain

Solo Exhibitions

2023 *The Garden*, JD Malat Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2023 *Cíclico*, KUR Art Gallery, San Sebastián, Spain, 202

2022 *Insight*, Makasiini Contemporary, Turku, Finland

2021 *Physis*, JD Malat Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2021 *Memories of a night*, Galería Lumbreras, Bilbao, Spain

2020 *Ephemeral*, Makasiini Contemporary, Turku, Finland

2019 *ORGÁNICO*, KUR Art Gallery, San Sebastian, Spain

2019 *Wild*, Makasiini Contemporary, Turku, Finland

2017 *Medousa*, Mirat & Co Gallery, Madrid, Spain

2016 *Galeria Abartium*, Barcelona, Spain

2015 *Centro 14*, Alicante, Spain

2014 *Aixerrota Arte*, Getxo, Spain

2014 *Blancao*, Madrid, Spain

2013 *Estudio Raquel Chamorro*, Madrid, Spain

Group Exhibitions

2023 *Summer Exhibition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2023 *Past, Present, Future*, JD Malat Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2022 *Summer Exhibition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2021 *Under 35 to Watch*, JD Malat Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2020 *Group Exhibition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2019 *Summer Group Exhibition*, Makasiini Contemporary, Turku, Finland

2018 *Prison des Eveques*, Saint Jean Pied de Port, France

2018 *Reina Sofa Painting Contest*, Casa de Vacas, Madrid, Spain

- 2017 *International Art Biennial of Cerveria*, Cerveira, Portugal
- 2017 *Museo Casa Ibanez*, Melilla, Spain
- 2017 *Museo Luis de Morales*, Badajoz, Spain
- 2017 *Reina Sofa Painting Contest*, Casa de Vacas, Madrid, Spain
- 2016 *Exhibition Hall*, Pola de Siero, Asturias, Spain
- 2016 *De lo Concreto a lo Abstracto*, Nave 73, Madrid, Spain
- 2016 *Zabaleta Museum*, Jaen, Spain
- 2016 *Museu d'Art de Prego*, Alicante, Spain
- 2016 *Sala Francisco Pradilla*, Zaragoza, Spain
- 2015 *Ibercaja*, Patio de la infanta, Zaragoza, Spain
- 2015 *Zabaleta Museum*, Jaen, Spain
- 2015 *International Painting Biennial*, Miquel Viladrich, Llieda, Spain
- 2015 *Propuestas 2015*, Centro14, Alicante, Spain
- 2014 *Pablo Picasso Museum*, Malaga, Spain
- 2013 *Academy of fine arts*, Sabadell, Spain

International Art Fairs

- 2024 *ZONA MACO*, JD Malat Gallery, CDMX, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2023 *Art Madrid*, KUR Gallery, Madrid, Spain
- 2022 *Untitled Art*, Makasiini Contemporary, Miami Beach, USA
- 2022 *Art Istanbul*, JD Malat Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2022 *Artmonte-Carlo*, JD Malat Gallery, Monte Carlo, Monaco
- 2022 *ZONA MACO*, JD Malat Gallery, CDMX, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2019 *Untitled*, Makasiini Contemporary, Miami Beach, USA
- 2017 *Art Marbella*, Malaga, Spain

Selected Collections

- Yusaku Maezawa Contemporary Art foundation, Tokyo, Japan
- Simco. Stefan Simchowicz Collection, USA
- Diputacion foral de Bizkaia, Spain
- Santander Creativa Foundation, Spain
- Luis de Morales Museum, Spain
- Diego del Alcazar Collection, Spain

Acknowledgements

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