


An abstract painting by Luis Olaso titled 'The Garden'. The artwork features a vibrant and expressive composition of colors and textures. A large, central blue shape, possibly representing a body of water or a path, is surrounded by various other colors including red, yellow, green, and white. The brushstrokes are thick and visible, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and emotional intensity.

LUIS OLASO
The Garden

JD MALAT
GALLERY

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An abstract painting featuring vibrant, expressive brushstrokes in red, green, white, and blue. The composition is layered with various textures, including a piece of coarse, brown fabric in the upper left and a blue fabric-like texture in the lower right. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and emotional intensity.

My work is always a self-portrait. Not a self-portrait at the level of representation, but a self-portrait of emotions and personal state. From there comes the colour, the viscosity, the expression in the brushstrokes that help me to represent the iconographic imagery of the close elements of my day to day - in this case, plants, still lifes and different elements of my life.

- Luis Olaso

The Garden

JD Malat Gallery is excited to announce the opening of *The Garden*, a solo-show by Bilbao-based artist Luis Olaso (b. 1986), on view July 13th until August 8th. Following *Physis*, Olaso's immensely successful 2021 show in London, *The Garden*, invites viewers to journey through snapshots of Olaso's memories through this array of his colourful and lush abstract still lifes.

Having exhibited in Finland, Spain, France, Portugal, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Japan, Olaso is undeniably a powerful force driving contemporary abstraction with his colourful and expressive still lifes. His second solo show in London with JD Malat Gallery, *The Garden*, showcases the latest developments in Olaso's work and inspirations.

Presenting eight new large-scale works, *The Garden* is packed with bold colours and natural motifs and transforms the exhibition space into a representation of Olaso's daily life and surroundings.

I am in a personal moment in which I feel fascinated by nature. I live surrounded by it: my passions are my garden, where I grow my own plants and eat them, and my sailing boat. The fascination for life and nature is present in all of my works, I think it is my greatest source of inspiration. – Luis Olaso

Bursting with energy and colour, Olaso's lively reinterpretation of the still life painting turns the traditionally foreboding genre on its head. Mixing the abstract with the representational, his "unstill" lifes reflect the vibrant Spanish dining culture in the artist's local Bilbao.

Identifying his paintings as a form of abstract self-portrait, Olaso has defined his process as akin to therapy – a moment where he is free of social conditioning, obligations, and pretenses. In order to allow for absolute expression and freedom within his work, Olaso's two-step approach to painting, dubbed Action and Analysis, bridges chaos and order. Initially painting on pure instinct, Olaso creates raw shapes, patterns, and maps of colour across the canvas. Then, after hours of inspection and analysis, he grades what works for the painting and what doesn't. Through this method, Olaso is able to create uninhibited, emotive, and visceral paintings reflecting his irrational subconscious self, while still evolving as an artist piece by piece and collection by collection.

The body of work behind *The Garden* expands on Olaso's signature elements into bolder, more saturated colours as the artist plays with forced contrasts and chromatic amplitude. He pays fine attention to the whites and lightnesses of the canvas, utilising the blank spaces and brushstrokes to float his naturalistic elements and build tension for his dramatic use of colour.

Challenging the exhibition as a "blank canvas", Olaso has created an all-encompassing experience, where each work connects into a wall-to-wall abstract rendition of his environment. With *The Garden*, Olaso offers a space to stop and connect with his works, *as just as [my paintings] come from a specific personal moment on my part, the viewer will connect either with my message, or seek to travel to your own 'Garden' and make your personal journey.*



Composition for a jug and sunflowers, 2023

Oil, acrylic, oil bar and oil pastel on canvas
59 x 47 1/4 in
150 x 120 cm



Composition for sunflowers and jug, 2023

Oil, acrylic, oil bar and oil pastel on canvas
78 3/4 x 63 in
200 x 160 cm





Composition for three flowers and a pot, 2023

Oil, acrylic, oil bar and oil pastel on canvas
78 3/4 x 63 in
200 x 160 cm



Composition for a blue banana tree, 2023

Oil, acrylic, oil bar and oil pastel on canvas
78 3/4 x 63 in
200 x 160 cm





Composition for a Saturday's lunch, 2023

Oil, acrylic, oil bar and oil pastel on canvas
78 3/4 x 63 in
200 x 160 cm



Composition for a bouquet of sunflowers and a jug, 2023

Oil, acrylic, oil bar and oil pastel on canvas
63 x 63 in
160 x 160 cm





Composition for sunflower and jug, 2023

Oil, acrylic, spray, oil bar, oil pastel and stitched fabrics
47 1/4 x 47 1/4 in
120 x 120 cm



Composition for a bouquet of flowers, 2023

Oil, acrylic, oil bar and oil pastel on canvas
78 3/4 x 114 1/8 in
200 x 290 cm





Composition for two Sunflowers, a pot, and a table, 2022

Oil, acrylic, oil bar and oil pastel on canvas
59 1/8 x 47 1/4 in
150 x 120 cm

Luis Olaso CV

b. 1986 - Bilbao, Spain

Education:

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

Solo Exhibitions:

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 Galería Abartium, Barcelona, Spain
 2015 Centro 14, Alicante, Spain
 2014 Aixerrota Arte, Getxo, Spain
 2014 Blanco, Madrid, Spain
 2013 Estudio Raquel Chamorro, Madrid, Spain

Group Exhibitions:

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 Sofia 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 Sofia 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:

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

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