

7 MARCH – 6 APRIL 2024

SANTIAGO PARRA

SPARK OF FIRE

JD MALAT
GALLERY

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JD Malat Gallery introduces *Spark of Fire*, a new series by Colombian artist Santiago Parra. This show marks the fifth solo exhibition with Parra at JD Malat, displaying a different strand of his artistic oeuvre, sensationalising his method and presenting a new form of internal dialogue that materialises deeper ventures of the subconscious mind onto the canvas.

Stories stemming from Sumerian mythology dictate tales of the first person being made out of clay; in Greco-Roman mythology, it was Prometheus who sculpted humans from clay and gifted them the spark of fire which brought them to life. These myths unravel an analogy regarding inert materials and the impetus of energy needed to bring them to life. In this exhibition, Santiago Parra presents himself as a creator, narrating stories of pure expression and journeying through his vigorous and arduous artistic process to imbue his compositions with that *Spark of Fire*.

Parra harnesses the purity of human impulse, directly opposing the confines of rationality previously appendaged to the banners of art history. He has stated that he solely relies on instinct and distances himself from the 'cerebral' acts that inform most artistic practices. To him *"In the development of ideas, emotions, feelings, and intuition play an important role that we tend to dismiss. My idea was to render intuition, feeling, and emotion at the core of my practice to show how they are at the basis of creation"*.

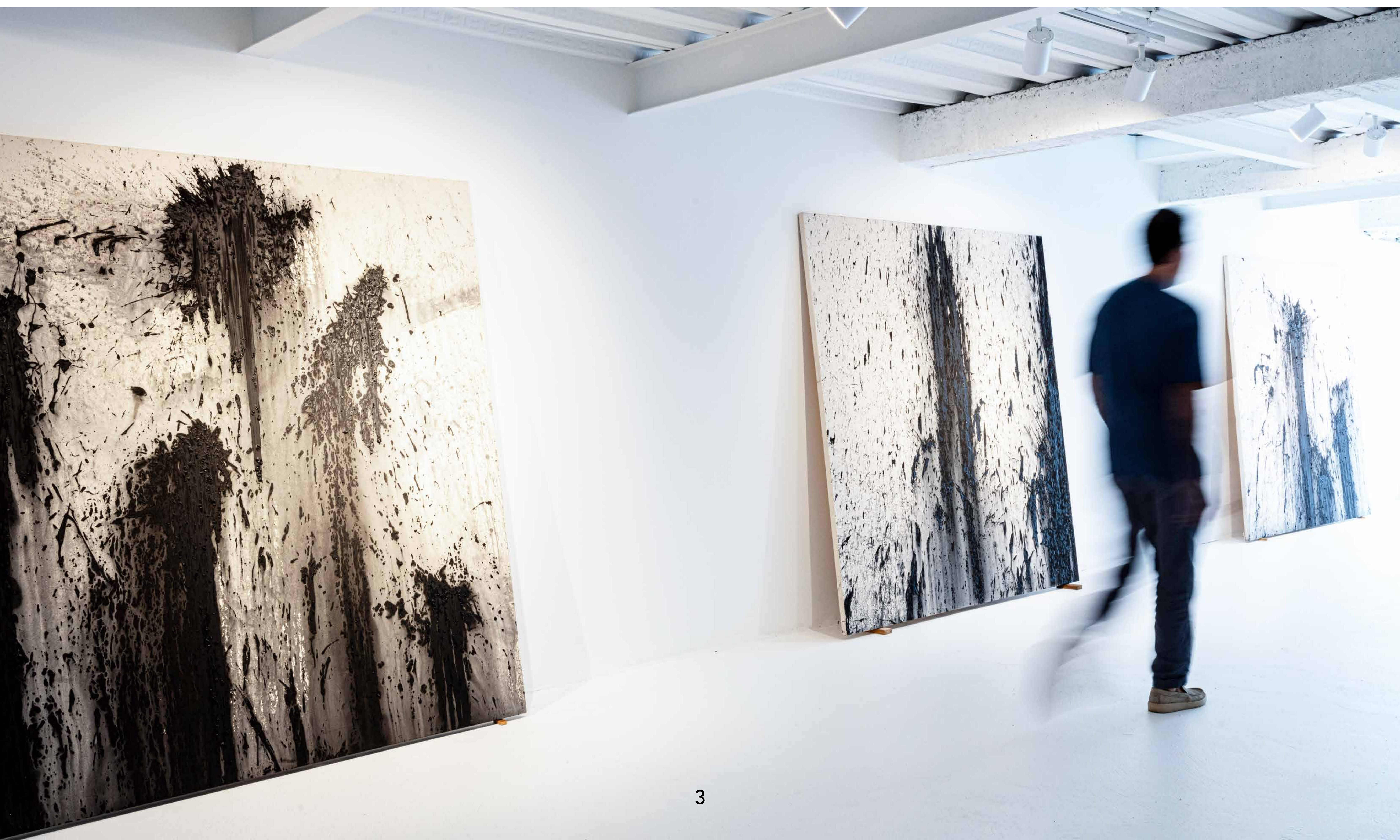
Engaging in a mental preparation that informs his artistic process, he surrenders himself to a conscious meditation where ideas and thoughts dissipate from his memory, leaving him unbound by restrictions enforced under the rational mind. This process conveys the uniqueness of Parra's oeuvre as he is not in control of what he produces, nor is he present during the creation process. This results in an unprecedented dichotomy, with Parra acting both as the creator and his audience, subverting art historical narratives and unifying these seemingly opposing characteristics into one form. There is a correspondence that Parra's internal self has with the external body, naturally lifting the brush from the canvas once the composition is complete, stating *"my consciousness regains control*

very quickly, that's her job, to be in control. When I feel that I'm coming out of the trance I know the painting must finish and I must lift my brush".

Spark of Fire consists of fourteen monochromatic compositions that embody the raw qualities attributed to abstract expressionism. The swirl-like portrayals present a whimsical fluidity, with the deep black tonal variations paving the canvas as if instructing your eyes to follow their every direction. The geometric and jagged compositions coalesce the calmness of calligraphy with the chaos of abstraction, resulting in these texturally rich impasto portrayals that engage in an exuberant dance of liberation. Parra has also unveiled a new strand of his oeuvre, depicting artistic fulminations that reveal a new aspect of his subconscious. Evoking the physicality of action painters such as Jackson Pollock (1912-1956), Parra displays dispersions of paint that merge the borders of vigour and fragility, harnessing and exerting powerful energies, adorning each composition with a spark of life.

When studying Art History, Parra found inspiration in surrealism, particularly the automatism movement which was the phenomenon of creating art without conscious thought. Undergoing an archaeological expedition on his mind, Parra's *Spark of Fire* unearths his inner complexities, discovering deeper narratives of the human experience and its impact on us as individuals. Igniting his audience, he unleashes his subconscious, pulsating energy akin to a volcanic eruption, leaving the viewer with a visceral understanding of emotion and liberation in its purest forms.

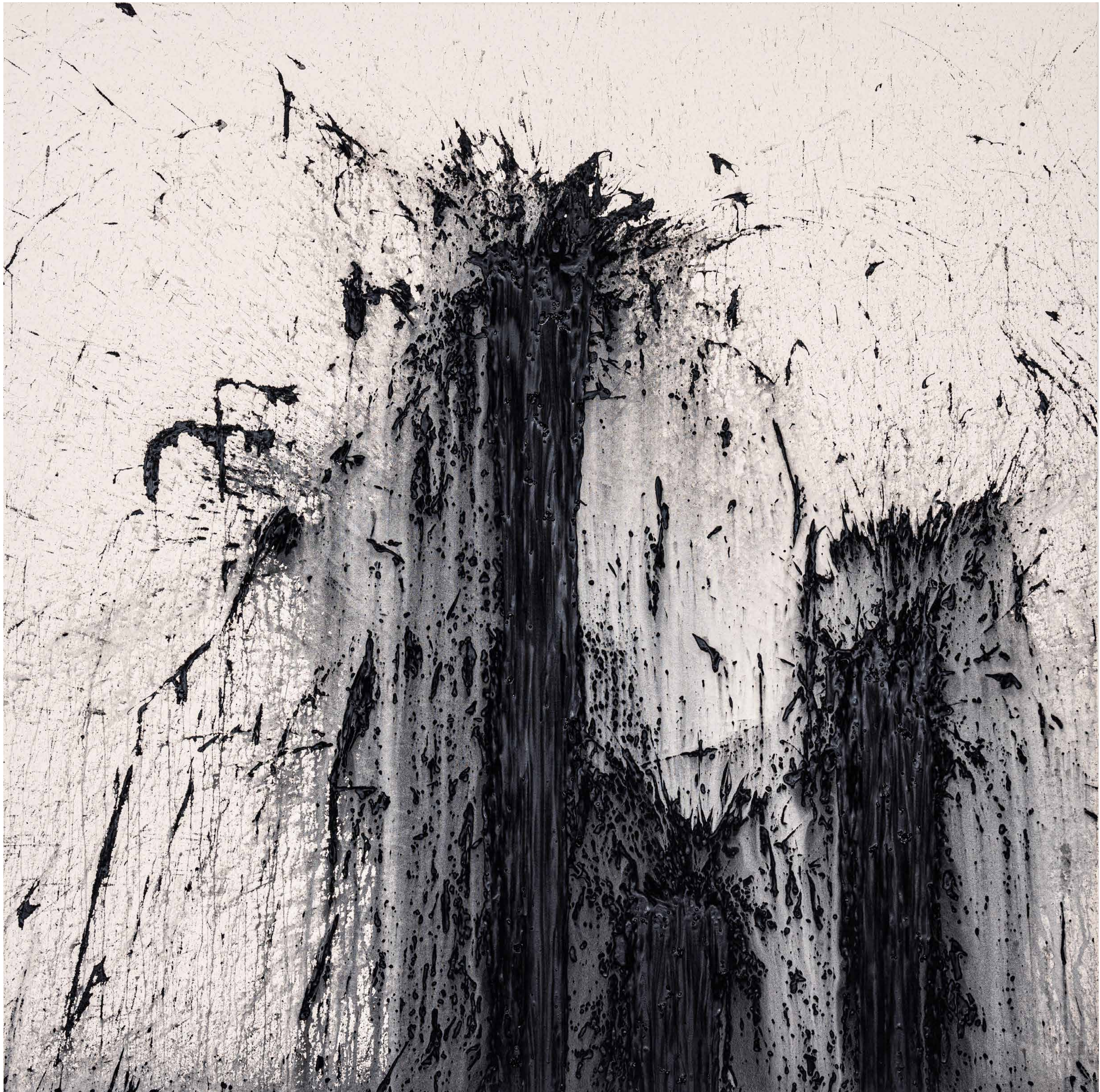
– Cyrus Shirazi, 2024.





Untitled, 2023
Acrylic on canvas

105 7/8 x 117 3/8 in
269 x 298 cm



Untitled, 2023
Acrylic on canvas

77 1/2 x 77 1/2 in
197 x 197 cm



Untitled, 2023
Acrylic on canvas

77 1/2 x 77 1/2 in
197 x 197 cm



Untitled, 2023
Acrylic on canvas

64 3/8 x 50 3/8 in
163.5 x 128 cm



Untitled, 2023
Acrylic on canvas

74 1/4 x 94 1/8 in
188.5 x 239 cm



Untitled, 2023
Acrylic on canvas

45 7/8 x 91 3/4 in
116.5 x 233 cm



Untitled, 2023
Acrylic on canvas

74 1/4 x 94 1/8 in
188.5 x 239 cm



Untitled, 2023
Acrylic on canvas

64 3/8 x 50 3/8 in
163.5 x 128 cm



Untitled, 2023
Acrylic on canvas

103 1/8 x 65 3/4 in
262 x 167 cm



Untitled, 2023
Acrylic on canvas

66 3/4 x 45 7/8 in
169.5 x 116.5 cm



Untitled, 2023
Acrylic on canvas

79 7/8 x 54 3/4 in
203 x 139 cm



Untitled, 2023
Acrylic on canvas

46 x 63 3/4 in
117 x 162 cm



Untitled, 2023
Acrylic on canvas

47 7/8 x 47 7/8 in
121.5 x 121.5 cm



Untitled, 2023
Acrylic on canvas

66 1/2 x 66 1/2 in
169 x 169 cm

'Far from traditional easel painting these paintings are done in what could be described as a ritual, there's no representation nor composition. They do not represent the result of an exercise but rather they constitute the medium in which the artist expresses himself, what we are brought to see is the vestigial tracing of a cathartic ritual.'

– Santiago Parra, 2024.



SANTIAGO PARRA CV
b. 1986 – Bogotá, Colombia

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 *Spark of Fire*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2023 *Instinct*, JD Malat Gallery, Online
- 2022 *Unconscious*, JD Malat Gallery, 507 West 27th Street, New York, NY 10001
- 2021 *Black Matter*, JD Malat Gallery, Galerie 10, St. Moritz, Switzerland
- 2020 *Archetype*, Madison Gallery, Solana Beach, USA
- 2020 *Upheaval*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2020 *Temple*, JD Malat Gallery, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2019 *Uprising*, JD Malat Gallery, Miami Beach, USA
- 2019 *Silence*, Rosenthal Fine Art, Chicago, USA
- 2019 *III Acts*, Galería Sextante, Bogotá, Colombia
- 2018 *Rising Action*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2018 *Santiago Parra Obra Reciente*, Galería Sextante, Bogotá, Colombia
- 2017 *Santiago Parra*, Galería ArteConsult, Ciudad de Panama, Panama
- 2014 *27.03.14*, Galería Filomena Soares, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2014 *Pinturas*, Galería Isabel Aninat, Santiago de Chile, Chile
- 2014 *Galería Sextante*, Bogotá, Colombia
- 2011 *La fuerza del Signo*, The Warehouse Art, Bogotá, Colombia
- 2010 *Pinturas*, Galería Sextante, Bogotá, Colombia

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2023 *Summer Exhibition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2023 *Past, Present, Future*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2022 *Summer Exhibition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2021 *Galerie Clemens Gunzer*, Vienna, Austria
- 2021 *Black Matter*, JD Malat Gallery, St Moritz, Switzerland
- 2020 *Summer Group Exhibition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2020 *Abstraction & The Natural World*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2020 *The Contemporary Human Condition*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2019 *Summer Exhibition 2019*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK
- 2019 *MINIMAL/MAXIMAL*, curated by Lawrence van Hagen, London
- 2018 *MCP consultoria de Arte*, Mexico DF, Mexico
- 2018 *MAC GALA*, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de la Ciudad de Panama
- 2015 *En el Mismo Idioma*, Galería, Isabel Aninat, Santiago de Chile, Chile
- 2014 *Línea Blanda*, curated by Osca, Roldán Alzate, Galería Sextante, Bogotá, Colombia
- 2013 *6 ° Salón de Arte Bidimensional*, Fundación Gilberto Alzate Avendaño FUGA, Bogotá, Colombia
- 2011 *Void and Feelings*, Arevalo Gallery, Miami FL, USA

Selected International Art Fairs

- 2022 ZONA MACO, JD Malat Gallery, CDMX, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2021 *Contemporary Istanbul*, JD Malat Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2020 *Temple*, ZONA MACO, JD Malat Gallery, CDMX, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2019 *Contemporary Istanbul*, JD Malat Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2019 *Seattle Art Fair*, JD Malat Gallery, Seattle WA, US
- 2019 ZONA MACO, JD Malat Gallery, CDMX, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2018 ARTBO, Galería Filomina Soares, Bogotá, Colombia
- 2017 ARTBO, Galería Sextante, Bogotá, Colombia
- 2017 ART LIMA, Galería Isabel Aninat, Lima, Peru
- 2017 ARTEBA, Galería Isabel Aninat, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2017 ARCO, Galería Filomena Soares, Madrid, Spain
- 2016 PINTA MIAMI, Galería Sextante, Miami FL, USA
- 2016 ART LONDON, Lamb Arts, London, UK
- 2016 ARCO, Galería Filomena Soares, Madrid, Spain
- 2016 ARTBO, Galería Filomena Soares, Galería Sextante, Bogotá, Colombia
- 2016 ARTLIMA, Galería Isabel Aninat, Lima, Peru
- 2016 ARCO, Galería Filomena Soares, Madrid, Spain
- 2015 PINTA MIAMI, Galería Sextante, Miami FL, USA
- 2014 ARTBO, Galería Sextante, Bogotá, Colombia
- 2014 ESTART, Galería Filomena Soares, Estoril, Portugal
- 2014 PINTA, Galería Filomena Soares, London, UK
- 2014 ARTEBA, Galería Isabel Aninat, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2014 ART BRUSSELS, Galería Filomena Soares, Brussels, Belgium
- 2014 SP-ARTE, Galería Filomena Soares, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2014 THE ARMORY SHOW, Galería Filomena Soares, NY, USA
- 2014 ARCO, Galería Filomena Soares, Madrid, Spain
- 2014 ZONA MACO, Galería Filomena Soares, Mexico City, México
- 2014 ARTBO, Galería Sextante, Colombia
- 2012 ARTBO, Galería Sextante, Colombia
- 2012 ART MIAMI, Galería Sextante, Miami FL, USA
- 2011 ARTEBA, Galería Sextante, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2011 CHACO, Galería Sextante, Santiago de Chile
- 2011 ARTBO, Galería Sextante, Colombia
- 2010 ART MIAMI, Galería Sextante, Miami FL, USA\
- 2010 ARTE BA, Galería Sextante, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2010 CHACO, Galería Sextante, Santiago de Chile, Chile
- 2010 ARTBO, Galería Sextante, Colombia
- 2010 PINTA, Galería Sextante, NY, USA
- 2009 ARTBO, Galería Sextante, Colombia

Selected International Art Fairs

Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), Miami, USA

Tanya C. Brillembourg Collection, USA

Jorge Pérez Collection, USA

Solita Mishan Collection, Spain

Jean et Colette Cherqui Collection, France

Kehinde Wiley Collection, USA

Koç Art Collection Istanbul, Turkey

Cesar Gaviria Collection, Colombia Collection Lazaro, Spain





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