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Juan Uslé: Entre Dos Lunas

Sun, May 26, 2013

Uslé's abstract paintings combine color, form and structure into rich compositions marked by transparency and complex surface entanglements. Opens May 30 at L.A. Louver, Venice.



Geometric structures of shimmering, luminous bands are overlaid with organic elements that convey tension between order and chaos. Uslé mixes his own colors, and works with dispersion, dry pigment, acrylic and vinyl on canvas. Uslé finds inspiration for his work in the opposing centers of his life: the chaotic streets of New York, and the bucolic countryside of northern Spain. The title of this exhibition, *Entre Dos Lunas*, evokes this sense of “betweenness,” and which is carried through to the titles of individual works: from the English 1987

Tompkins Square and The Ice Storm , to the enigmatic Spanish Tejido de Aventuras (Tissue of Adventures) and Siete Suelos (Seven Floors).

The exhibition includes over 20 paintings, which are hung throughout the gallery's first floor exhibition spaces. A vertical format dominates and most canvas sizes do not exceed 24 x 18 inches (61 x 46 cm), with the exception of 644 Desplazado which measures 80 x 108 inches (203.2 x 274.3 cm). Eight paintings comprise the In Kayak series that are characterized by horizontal bands of variegated black bands, separated by thin stripes of color. This series is inspired by evening trips the artist makes along a river near his home in Spain. By contrast, several paintings have dense multi-colored pattern compositions, while others possess a lyrical emptiness, where both form and color are spare and offset by light colored grounds. In each of the works, the staccato impression of the luminous bands are derived through Uslé's application of paint according to the rhythm of his heart. In this way, the artist puts his body into each painting as he inscribes duration and flux.



Juan Uslé divides his time between his home and studio in Saro, Cantabria, in the lush countryside of Northern Spain, and New York City, where he has lived and worked for over 25 years. He has exhibited widely in Europe and the United States. Solo exhibitions include the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain, 2003; Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst, Ghent, Belgium, 2004; the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland, 2004; the Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Málaga (traveled to the Bancaja Cultural Center in Valencia,

Spain), 2007; and the Es Baluard Museu d'Art Modern i Contemporani de Palma, Mallorca, Spain, 2010. Uslé has also participated in the Bienal de São Paulo, 1985; the Third International Istanbul Biennial, Turkey, 1992; Documenta IX, Kassel, Germany, 1992, and the Venice Biennale, 2005. His work has strong representation in museum collections, including the Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris, France; the Staatsgalerie, Stuttgart and Munich, Germany; the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain; the Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden; Tate Modern, London, UK; Albright Knox Museum, Buffalo, New York; and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts, among others.

