

INTRODUCTION

PRESENTED

BY

SIGNATURE BEYOND ART GALLERY

KOLA DAIRO "ROTHKO"

KOLA DAIRO BY

14th October, 2023

Signature Beyond Art Gallery 107 Awolowo Road, Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria.

All Enquiries: | signaturebeyond@gmail.com +234(0)8033177676 Introduction to "Kola Dairo 'Rothko': A Contemporary African Art Exhibition

Welcome to an artistic voyage that transcends continents and bridges cultures. "Kola Dairo 'Rothko" is not just an exhibition; it's a testament to the universal language of color and abstraction that defies geographical boundaries. In this captivating showcase of contemporary African art, we are introduced to the brilliant world of Kola Dairo, an artist whose work strikingly resonates with the renowned American abstract expressionist, Mark Rothko.

As we step into this exhibition, we embark on a journey through the mesmerizing landscapes of color and form, where African heritage meets the spirit of Rothko's iconic color fields. This collection of artworks is a visual symphony that speaks to the soul, an invitation to explore the depths of emotions and perceptions through a palette that dances with vibrancy and serenity.

The title, "Kola Dairo 'Rothko," pays homage to an unexpected artistic connection. Kola Dairo, unbeknownst to himself, painted in a manner reminiscent of Rothko's renowned style, marking a serendipitous encounter with the legacy of an abstract expressionist master. Through this exhibition, we witness the convergence of two distinct artistic worlds on a single canvas-a harmonious fusion of African ingenuity and the timeless allure of Rothko's abstract expressionism.

But let us be clear: Kola Dairo's art is not an imitation; it is a personal interpretation-a profound dialogue between his African roots and the universal language of abstraction. With every brushstroke, Kola captures the essence of Rothko's soul-stirring art, infusing it with his unique perspective and heritage. The result is a collection that transcends mere aesthetics, inviting viewers to connect with art on a deeply emotional level.

"Kola Dairo 'Rothko" is an exhibition that invites you to explore the shared creative spirit that knows no boundaries, be they cultural or geographical. It is a celebration of the enduring power of art to connect souls, a journey through the rich tapestry of contemporary African art. As you immerse yourself in these vibrant and evocative works, allow your senses to be awakened, your emotions stirred, and your perceptions expanded.

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ART EXHIBITION

FOREWORD

Foreword to "Kola Dairo 'Rothko': A Contemporary African Art Exhibition

Art has a remarkable way of transcending time, space, and cultural boundaries, uniting us in its profound language of creativity. It is in this spirit of artistic unity that we gather here today to celebrate the extraordinary talent of Kola Dairo in his exhibition, "Kola Dairo 'Rothko."

In the world of contemporary African art, Kola Dairo has emerged as a luminary, his work capturing the essence of his African heritage while resonating with the abstract expressionism of Mark Rothko. This exhibition is a testament to the enduring power of art to create connections that defy geography and culture.

"Kola Dairo 'Rothko" is more than just a collection of canvases adorned with vibrant hues and intricate forms. It is a celebration of artistic influence-a dialogue between two artists, one contemporary African and the other an iconic American abstract expressionist, who, despite the boundaries of time and place, share a profound connection through their work.

Kola's artistry, marked by the interplay of colors and abstract forms, takes us on a visual journey where emotion and perception merge. His ability to create a language of colors that speaks to the soul is nothing short of remarkable. Each piece in this exhibition invites us to explore the depths of our own feelings and experiences, transcending the confines of language.

As you peruse these captivating artworks, allow yourself to be immersed in the rich tapestry of emotions and ideas that Kola Dairo presents. This is an exhibition that encourages introspection, sparks conversation, and invites us to celebrate the universal language of art.

We are honored to witness Kola Dairo's artistic evolution, from his African roots to the serendipitous discovery of his kinship with Mark Rothko. In this exhibition, we are invited to witness the beauty of artistic connection and the boundless possibilities of creativity.

May "Kola Dairo 'Rothko" inspire you, challenge you, and fill your senses with the profound beauty of contemporary African art. Welcome to an exhibition that transcends borders and invites us to explore the depths of our shared humanity through the language of art.

Abstract: Kola Dairo 'Rothko': A Contemporary African Art Exhibition

The exhibition "Kola Dairo 'Rothko" is a captivating exploration of contemporary African art that transcends the boundaries of culture, time, and geography. Through a masterful fusion of African heritage and the abstract expressionism of Mark Rothko, Kola Dairo's artworks invite viewers to embark on a visual journey filled with vibrant colors and intricate forms.

In this abstract, we delve into the essence of the exhibition, highlighting the profound connection between Kola Dairo's work and the iconic artistry of Rothko. The exhibition serves as a celebration of artistic influence, where two distinct worlds meet on the canvas-a harmonious blend of African ingenuity and the enduring allure of Rothko's abstract expressionism.

Throughout the exhibition, Kola Dairo's talent shines as he paints in a manner that echoes Rothko's renowned style, creating a profound dialogue between African roots and the universal language of abstraction. The artworks transcend mere aesthetics, inviting viewers to connect with art on a deeply emotional level.

"Kola Dairo 'Rothko" is a testament to the boundless possibilities of creativity and the power of art to create connections that defy cultural and geographical boundaries. Through this abstract, we introduce viewers to an exhibition that encourages introspection, sparks meaningful conversations, and celebrates the profound beauty of contemporary African art. Welcome to a visual odyssey that invites us to explore the depths of our shared humanity through the language of art.

ABSTRACT

ARTIST STATEMENT

Kola Dairo

I am deeply honored to have created such a diverse body of work, despite the myriad challenges I've encountered on my artistic journey. Art, for me, is an endless voyage of discovery, and I am profoundly grateful for the privilege to explore and create. Reflecting on my humble beginnings as an artist, I recall the countless lessons learned and the continuous growth that has enriched my artistic passion over time.

As an artist, I find boundless inspiration in the natural world that surrounds us. It's in the most unexpected places where I discover beauty – a fleeting water splash, the weathered surface of a deteriorating wall, or a meandering streak of dirt on the ground. These seemingly random and abstract forms serve as my artistic springboard, leading me to create my color field paintings using oil paints and acrylics on canvas.

I am endlessly fascinated by the way nature's colors and patterns can ignite the flame of abstract art. My goal is to capture this inherent beauty in my creations and to evoke a profound sense of wonder and joy in those who engage with my work. My art is, at its core, a celebratory homage to the natural world and its limitless capacity to inspire. I firmly believe that art possesses the transformative power to make the world a better place. Through this body of work, which encapsulates the intricate beauty of the natural world, I aspire to kindle in others a deep appreciation and commitment to the preservation of our planet.

In a world increasingly detached from nature, my art stands as a poignant reminder of the vital connection we share with the environment. Art transcends mere aesthetics; it serves as a catalyst for societal change and a potent force for positive transformation.

The genesis of "Kola Dairo, Rothko" is rooted in my profound connection to the natural world and my admiration for the artistry of Rothko. This exhibition serves as a jubilant celebration of artistic influence, where two distinct artistic realms converge on the canvas. My art is an immersive sensory experience, inviting viewers to explore the entire spectrum of human emotions. The interplay of colors in my work oscillates between dynamic and serene, mirroring the highs and lows of life itself. Through my art, I endeavor to transport the observer to a realm of introspection, where they can delve into the deepest recesses of their own souls.

Kola Dairo

My husband kolawole Dairo is an example of an innate endowment of a born artist who came from the family of artists whom are engaged in both musical and visual art. I see him as a small god who was sent to show me more light on art generally, and he has always put in all labour of inspiration where his gifts, talents, imagination speaks and impact in his everyday life not just for him alone but for other upcoming artists that gets closer to him.

As an artist myself and the wife of a renowned artist both locally and internationally, I am immensely proud to bear witness to my husband's exhibition. Kola's influence has been transformative in my life, imparting strength, optimism, and a deeper sense of creativity.

Through his guidance, I have gained a profound understanding of color theory and its capacity for communication. Kola has shown me that color transcends mere application; it serves as a rich tapestry of emotions, backgrounds, thoughts, and much more. His wisdom has broadened my artistic horizons and deepened my appreciation for the nuanced language of colors.

His creations are a manifestation of inspiration and imagination, skillfully conveyed through the intricate technique of pointillism. Through a masterful arrangement of colors, he weaves a tapestry where light and darkness seamlessly intermingle. His palette is far from ordinary; instead, it serves as a vibrant language that speaks volumes, evoking emotions that can be discerned both in abstract forms and figurative representations.

Kola's artistic exploration extends beyond the confines of a single medium. He is an unceasing experimenter, fearlessly venturing into new materials and techniques with each passing day.

Kolawole Dairo is an industrious artist, a perpetual learner who never ceases to explore and evolve. To me, he is not just the love of my life but also my guiding light, my source of inspiration, and my constant motivation, propelling me to engage in creative work and experimentation. He stands as a formidable artist in his own right, and I am immensely grateful to be his wife and the mother of our children, who undoubtedly will inherit his artistic greatness and continue his legacy.

Kola and I attended the same secondary school a few years ago, where our shared love for art first connected us. Interestingly, he used to drop by my class to see if I was busy with my drawings and paintings. Little did I know that art had an uncanny way of playing matchmaker.

After leaving that school and transferring to another, I lost touch with Kola without a word. Fast forward fifteen years later, fate brought us together once again. We reconnected and began collaborating in his art studio, only to discover that our shared passion for art held the promise of endless creative possibilities. And here we are today, on an artistic journey that destiny seemed to have charted all along.

Mrs. Timah Dairo

In 2019, I had the privilege of meeting Kolawole Dairo in an art-related context, and even then, it was evident that his artistic journey held boundless potential. It would be an understatement to say that I am not taken by surprise today. Kolawole possesses a remarkable artistic insight that enables him to uncover hidden treasures, and he fearlessly ventures into uncharted territories. His capacity for learning is remarkable, and in a remarkably short time, he has covered astonishing distances in his artistic career.

Kolawole has not only discovered his true self but has also pioneered an unconventional approach that sets his work apart, making it markedly distinct from what was previously considered conventional. His body of work serves as a testament to profound contemplation, and the way his dots disperse at the edges only to spontaneously connect elsewhere creates a wave of nostalgia reminiscent of the Expressionism movement.

I have every confidence that art connoisseurs will find immense pleasure in his narrative as they explore his exhibition. Kolawole Dairo's journey is one of artistic evolution and innovation, and I am excited to witness his continued growth in the art world.

Warm regards,

Mr. Morakinyo Seye Artist Kolawole Dairo is a visionary artist driven by an insatiable curiosity for uncharted territories. His boundless creativity and determination have propelled him to shatter boundaries and conquer the seemingly impossible. Kola's artistry thrives on risk-taking, fearlessly pushing the boundaries of his craft.

His artworks come alive with an explosion of vibrant colors and dynamic movements, radiating with life and energy. Kola is an intrepid explorer of new mediums and techniques, fearlessly embracing the unknown. His art serves as a profound expression of his inexhaustible spirit and vitality.

I consider myself fortunate to have crossed paths with Kola, and his infectious enthusiasm and fearless approach to art have indelibly left their mark on all those fortunate enough to have known him.

Henry Akhille Ehiforia Artist

KOLA DAIRO PROFILE

Born in 1996

Kolawole Dairo is a self-taught and innovative artist originally from Osun State, Nigeria, but born and raised in Lagos. His deep passion for art led him to seek mentorship under his uncle, Mr. Olamilekan Dairo, and subsequently pursue formal education in visual art at Yaba College of Technology in Lagos, Nigeria. Dairo is a versatile artist, known for his multidisciplinary approach, where he utilizes a diverse range of materials to give life to his creative visions.

Kolawole Dairo is the grandson of the late Nigerian juju musician, Pa I.K. Dairo (MBE). His profound appreciation for colors has led him to delve into color field abstract expressionism, employing a pointillism technique. This artistic approach infuses his works with a sense of movement, as he skillfully layers various hues upon one another to convey the essence of simplicity and vibrancy in his forms.

In his art, Dairo addresses a wide spectrum of subjects, including social issues, family dynamics, political matters, emotional experiences, fashion, and culture, among others. His canvases serve as a canvas for exploring the multifaceted tapestry of human existence and the world around us.

As an emerging artist, Kolawole delved into the realm of artistic expression using an array of diverse mediums, including acrylics, oil paints, textiles, newsprints, beads, and more. His journey as a professional artist began several years ago, marked by a steadfast commitment to infuse his artworks with his utmost dedication, undeterred by the challenges encountered during the creative process.

Kolawole, a young and promising artist, has dedicated himself as a full-time studio artist, diligently cultivating his unique artistic identity. He is best known for his dynamic rendition of color tones, achieved through his distinctive pointillism style of work. His exceptional talent has earned him recognition, with many of his works being featured in group exhibitions and finding a place of honor in the collections of prestigious galleries both in Nigeria and abroad.

Located in Lagos State, Nigeria, Kolawole operates his Experimental Art Studio, where he fearlessly explores his creative ideas, pushing the boundaries of artistic innovation. It is within this vibrant studio space that his artistic vision continues to evolve and flourish.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the Almighty for granting me the opportunity to showcase my art in this exhibition. I am truly blessed to have this platform to share my creative journey with the world.

I also want to express my heartfelt appreciation to my parents, Mr. Samuel and Mrs. Kudirat Dairo, for their unwavering support and belief in my artistic pursuits right from the very beginning. Their encouragement has been my guiding light.

To my beloved wife, your constant encouragement and unwavering support have been my pillars of strength. My love for you knows no bounds, and I am deeply grateful for your presence in my life.

I want to give special recognition to Mr. Akar Rahman for his unwavering belief in my career, his boundless love, and his tireless support. Without him, this exhibition would not have been possible.

I would also like to convey my gratitude to the complete management team of Signature Art Gallery for their priceless support. Their unwavering commitment to this undertaking was evident at every juncture, and their enthusiasm proved to be a cornerstone in the fulfillment of this monumental endeavor.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the attendees who graced the show with their presence. Your support and love are deeply cherished, and I am genuinely thankful for your presence.

Warm regards,

Kola Dairo

DEDICATION

It is with immense pleasure that I dedicate this exhibition to the divine source of all creation, the wellspring of inspiration and the bestower of artistic gifts. I extend my heartfelt dedication to my parents, unwavering pillars of support throughout my artistic journey, and to my beloved wife, a constant source of encouragement and boundless love.

Additionally, I dedicate this show to Mr. Rahman Akar, whose mentorship has been invaluable, and to my esteemed senior colleagues, Mr. Seye Mirakinyo and Mr. Henry Akhile, whose wisdom and guidance have enriched my artistic path. I extend this dedication to all emerging artists who may be grappling to discover their own unique voice.

In honoring these sources of inspiration and support, I pay tribute to the collective efforts that have fueled my artistic expression and growth.

Kolawole Dairo

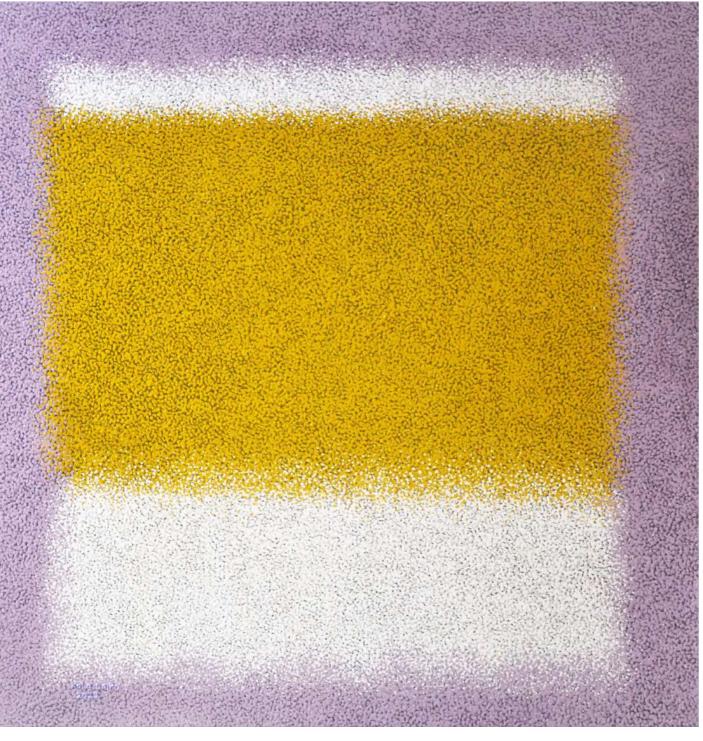


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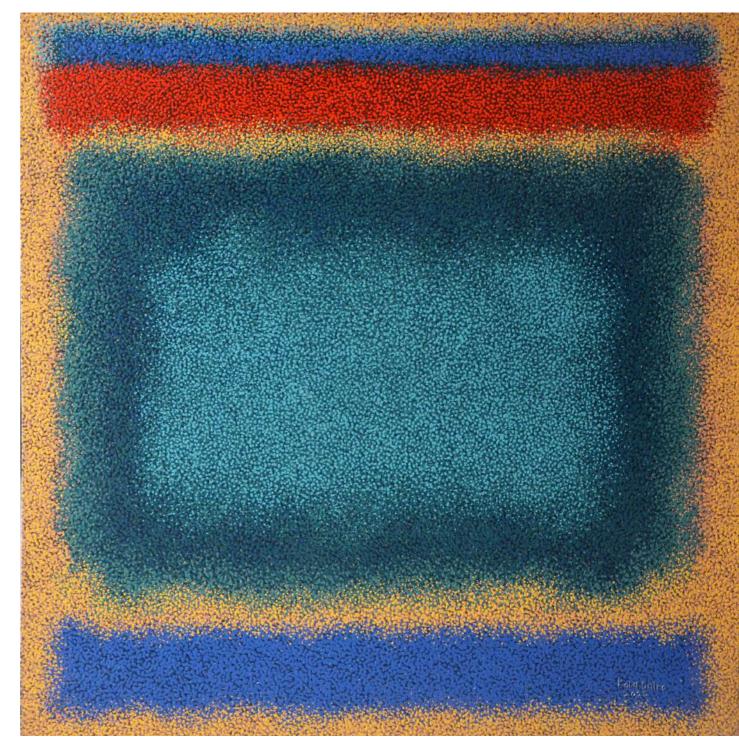
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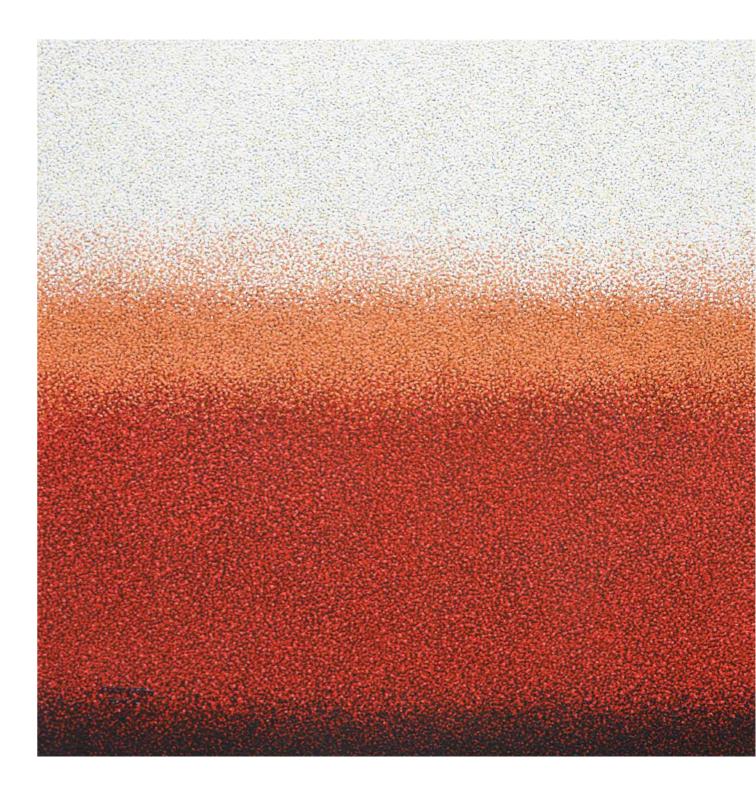
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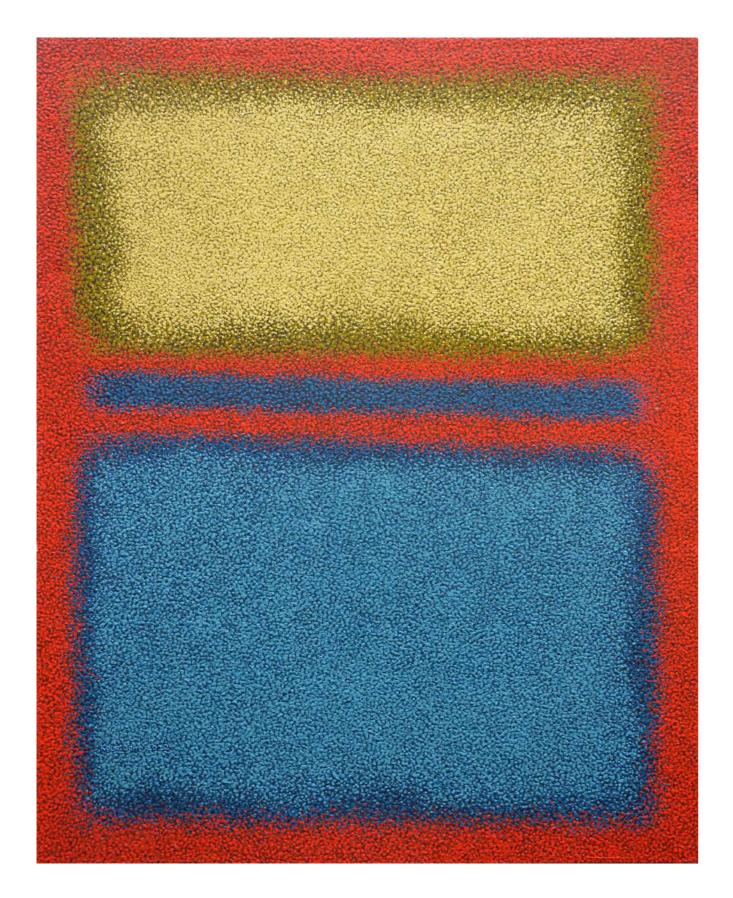
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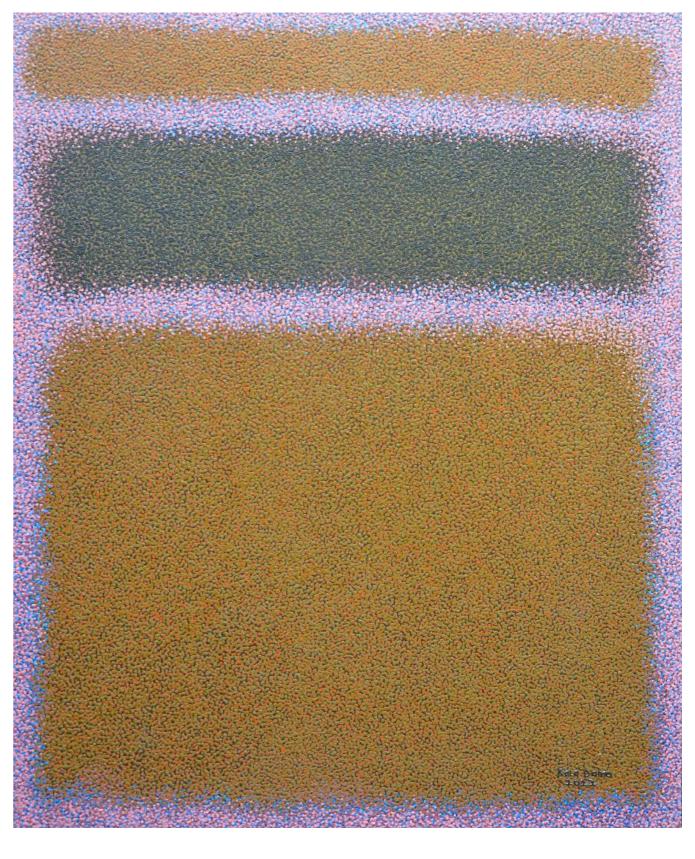


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Title: Black, And Red-brown On Grey Medium: Acrylic on Canvas. Size: Width 122 x Height 151 centimeters



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Title: Mixed Yellow Ochre, Black And Mixed Lavender Medium: Acrylic on Canvas. Size: Width 122 x Height 151 centimeters Year: 2022

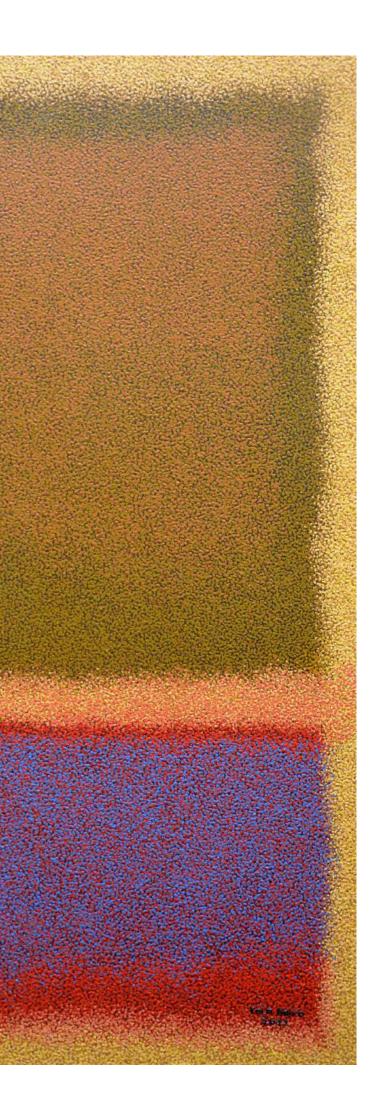


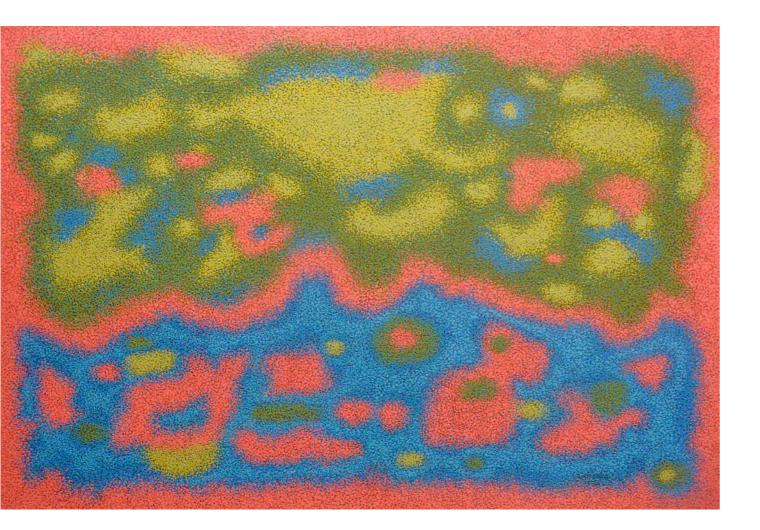
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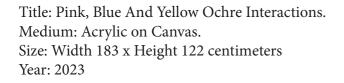


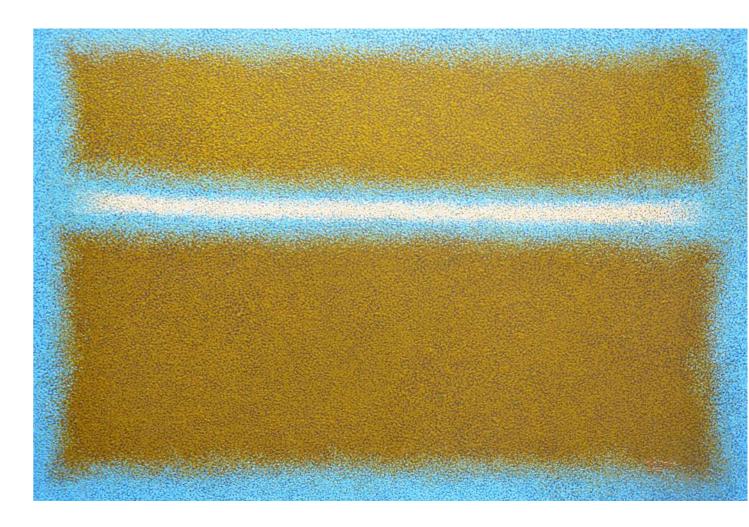
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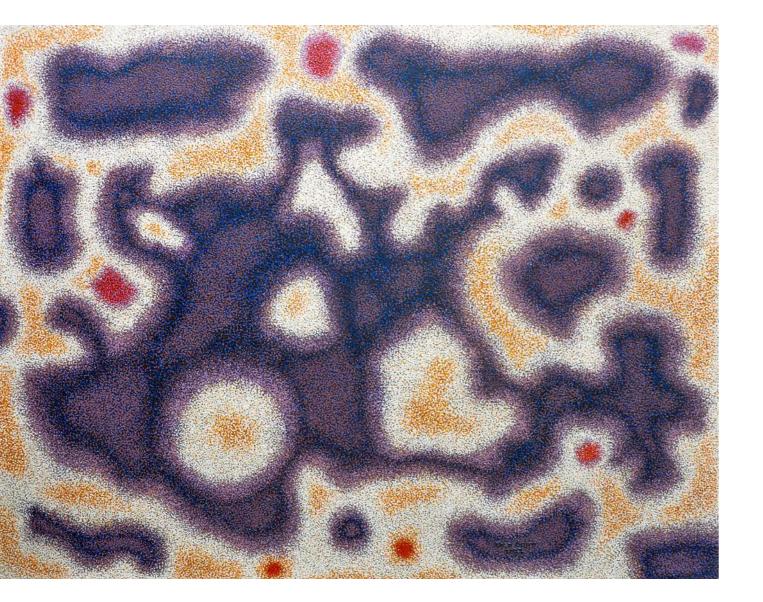




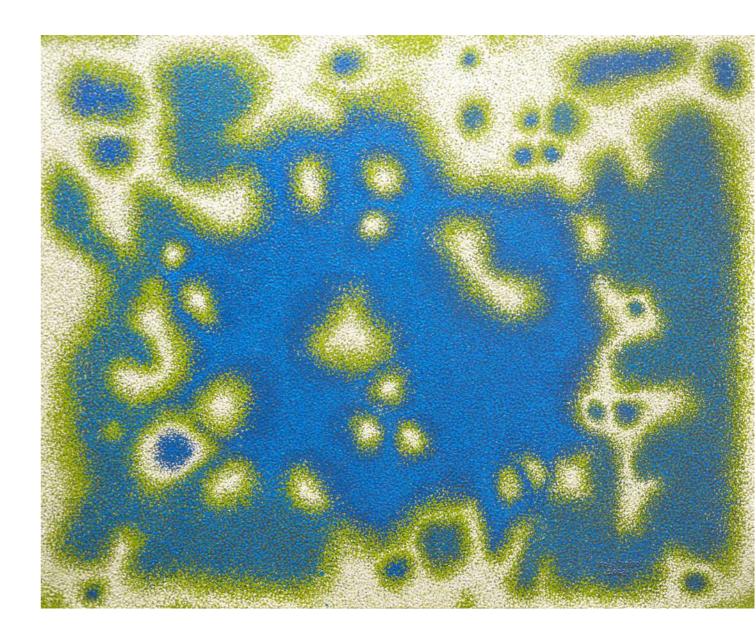




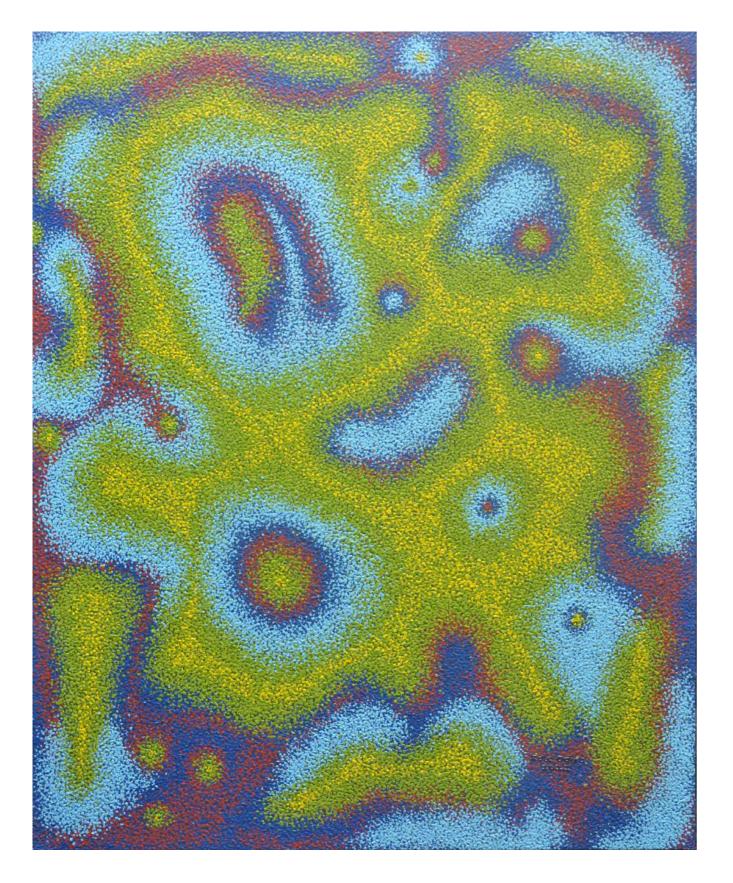
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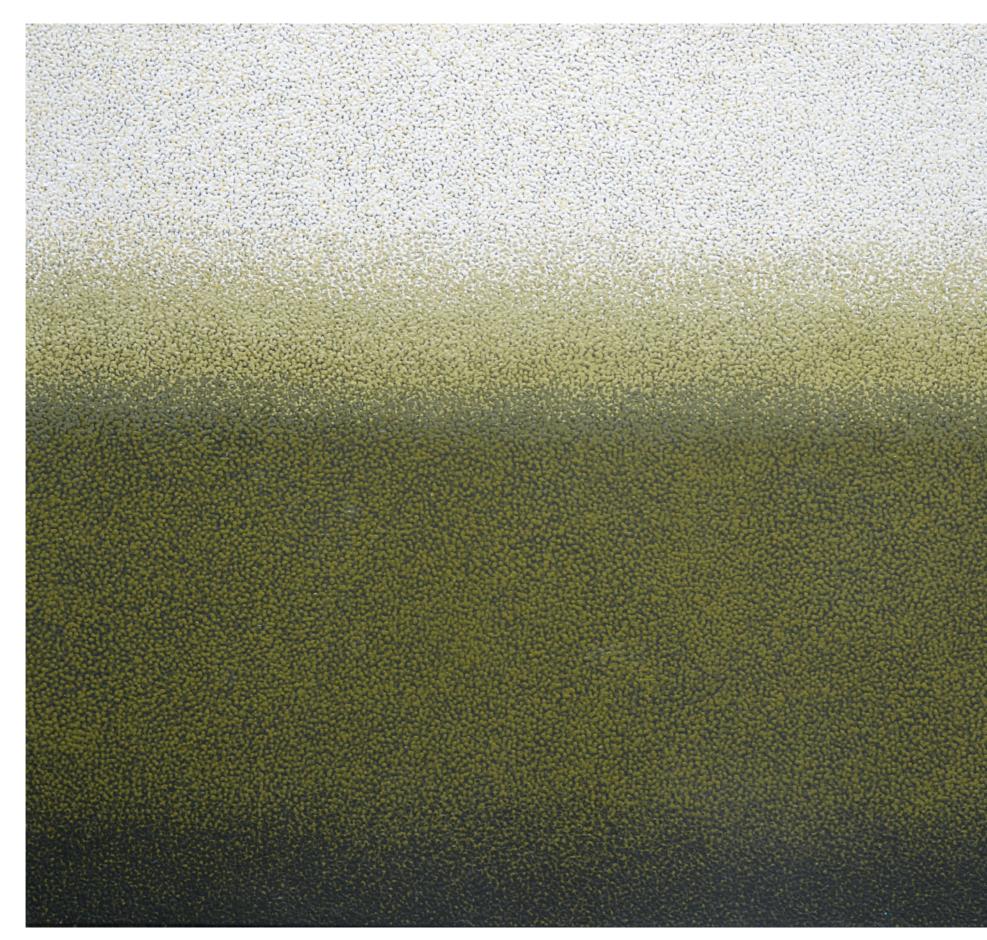
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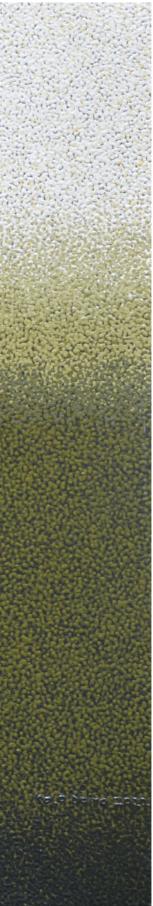
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Title: The Blue Form And It's Particles Medium: Acrylic on Canvas. Size: Width 122 x Height 151 centimeters Year: 2022



Title: White On Mixed Yellow Ochre Medium: Acrylic on Canvas. Size: Width 151 x Height 122 centimeters Year: 2022





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