

ENGLISH

GALLERIA CONTINUA

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JOSÉ YAQUE

ERUZIONE

23/09/2023 - 14/01/2023

Opening on Saturday 23 September 2023, via del Castello 11, 4-9pm. The gallery is open from Monday to Sunday 10am - 1pm / 2pm - 7pm.

Galleria Continua is pleased to present the solo exhibition *Eruzione* by Cuban artist José Yaque. Located in the gallery's spaces at Arco de Becci, the show presents a set of works, produced in 2022, whose genesis lies in the experience the artist had during a visit to La Palma a year earlier, when the island's volcano was in full eruption.

Talking about the exhibition, Yaque says: "After that experience I was convinced that this would later come out in painting. But I wanted it to come out the way lava comes out of the earth, unexpectedly, with power, with telluric force". That is why these works

belong to a prolific and unprejudiced period that can be defined by an explosion of color. While in his exhibition *Magma* in 2015 the pieces had a more serene appearance and featured a range of earthy tones that were associated with the components of rocks and a kind of subterranean world, in *Eruzione* it seems that the painting has been transformed into lava that needs to gush, run and spill, because it can no longer be contained. For the artist this is a painting that is done with the body, and not only with the hands. "I'm seduced by the image of a body painting as if it were an erupting volcano, expressing itself with power".

Yaque continues working with a technique that initiated this series of paintings, and with which he has acquired an impressive mastery: he caresses the mass of pigment in order to mix and spread the colors on the canvas. Vibrations and the force of gravity generate a magma that is transformed when the artist wraps the work in a plastic covering. Once the drying process is complete, the protective layer is removed, leaving a kind of eroded paint. In front of the *Eruzione* works, the viewer is captured by their movement and energy. The eye scans the canvas, losing itself in its depth and rhythm, in the folds of the surface troubled by complex overlays of colour where everything becomes an immersive and wrap-around dance, as if all the molten material from inside the earth had come to the surface.

José Yaque was born in Manzanillo, Cuba in 1985. He currently lives and works between Havana and Madrid. He studied at "Carlos Enríquez" Professional Academy of Fine Arts in Manzanillo (2005) and the Higher Institute of Art (ISA) in Havana (2011). He participated in the first Biennial of Contemporary Art in Portugal (2010) and he took part in the

collective exhibition of the Cuban Pavilion, in Palazzo Loredan, at the 57th Venice Biennale (2017). His work has been included in solo and group exhibitions at El Espacio 23, Miami; Villa Pacchiani Exhibition Centre, Santa Croce sull'Arno, Pisa; Singer Laren Museum, Amsterdam; Wasserman Projects, Detroit; Voorlinden Museum, Wassenaar, The Hague, Netherlands; CAB Art Center, Brussels; Metropolitan Art Society, Beirut; CENTQUATRE, Paris; Galleria Continua (different venues); among others. In 2018, Galleria Continua presented one of his large scale installation at Art Basel Unlimited, Switzerland.

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