

PRUDENCIO IRAZABAL

Clarity and Incertitude

17.11.2016 – 11.02.2017

The exhibition *Clarity and Incertitude* presents the latest works by Spanish artist Prudencio Irazabal in his fourth exhibition at Helga de Alvear gallery in Madrid. While in his previous series entitled *Chromatomy* (1993-1998) the artist unwove colour into its individual components, his focus is now on the spectrum of light. Working with pigments he aims to emulate the visual results obtained when working with additive light-colours.

In this body of work, the artist has further pursued his experimentation with the basic components of painting: colour, structure and materials. These elements are ever-present in his production and in this particular series they are used to experiment and explore light. A light materialised through colour.

Irazabal uses as a reference James Joyce's assertion "Claritas is Quidditas", taken from "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man". Clarity is the key, the essence, and the intelligible nature of things. In this way, clarity and light, model the composition on the canvas. The result is a dynamic coloured clarity, which the artist achieves not only by grading light, but rather through the precise formulation of colour. Thus, the spectrum of light is used as a chromatic category, as a transformative tool, which acts upon materials and form.

The technique employed by Prudencio Irazabal requires a methodical preparation of colours. These are applied to the canvas in a succession of thin acrylic resin layers, which act as the perfect vehicle to capture the expression of light. The clarity of these pieces resides in their particular conjectural nature, unfinished and forever open to accept another layer. Being aware that clarity cannot break through the fog of incertitude, this exhibition articulates the overlapping of these two concepts – clarity and uncertainty- while inviting the viewer to understand them as one.

Prudencio Irazabal (Puentelarrá, Álava, Spain 1954) studied Fine Art in Seville and Barcelona. In 1986 he moved to New York, where he began to exhibit his work regularly at the beginning of the nineties. His paintings have been included at selected exhibitions like: *Naples Collects*, The Baker Museum, Naples, Florida (2016); *The Distance Within*, Neiman Molenaar, Hong Kong (2015); *La revelación de la pintura*, MACA - Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Alicante (2015); *Selections IV*, Museo Guggenheim Bilbao (2014); *La piel translúcida*, Torre Iberdrola, Bilbao; Museo Patio Herreriano, Valladolid and CentroCentro, Madrid (2014); *Moving – Norman Foster on Art*, Carré d'Art, Nîmes (2013); *El Arte del Presente. Helga de Alvear Collection*. CentroCentro, Madrid (2013); *Fallen into Chaos & Order*, Hamish Morrison Galerie, Berlin (2012); *Omnia Pervia*, Museum Gegenstandfreier Kunst Otterndorf (2011).

He currently lives in Madrid. His work is included in private and public collections like: The Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain; Artium-Centro Museo Vasco de Arte Contemporáneo, Vitoria, Spain; Banco Español de Crédito, Madrid; CAB-Centro de Arte Caja de Burgos, Spain; AkzoNobel Art Foundation, Arnheim, Holland; Bank for International Settlements, Basel, Switzerland; H+F Collection, Rotterdam, Holland; Hermes Foundation, Paris, among others.