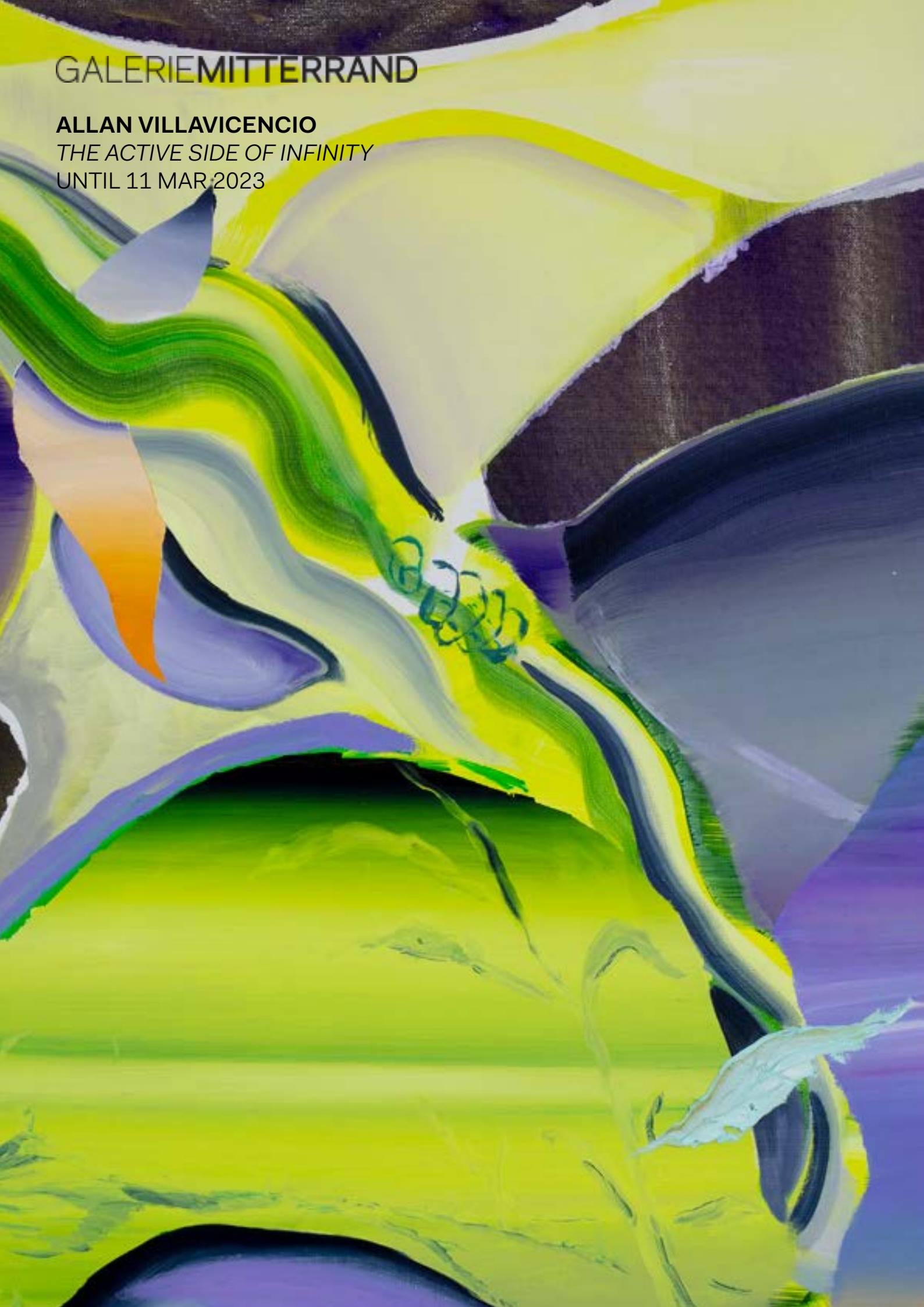


GALERIEMITTERRAND

ALLAN VILAVICENCIO

THE ACTIVE SIDE OF INFINITY

UNTIL 11 MAR 2023



PRESSE RELEASE

ALLAN VILLAVICENCIO

THE ACTIVE SIDE OF INFINITY

7 JAN > 11 MAR 2023

OPENING SATURDAY JANUARY 7TH, 2023

"The act of walking always revives our memories" and, according to Don Juan, "the sorcerers of ancient Mexico believed that everything we experience is stored as a sensation on the back of our legs. They considered the back of the legs as the warehouse for a person's personal history. So, let us set out now and walk in the hills." (The Active Side of Infinity, Carlos Castaneda)

Allan Villavicencio's work is inspired by the relationship between bodies and landscapes. Regeneration and metamorphosis are stages leading to the ultimate landscape: the only way toward an inner journey, one that allows us to reinvent ourselves immutably. In his work, the artist attempts to represent this moment of absence, a quasi-imperceptible interval that can only exist in our imagination, between our inner and outer landscapes. He loves this contradiction, these varying layers of meaning. He materialises it at Galerie Mitterrand in mural, painting, and ceramic bas-relief, superimposing memorable souvenirs. "On this volatile space we must build the house of our gaze, the house of air and water, where music sleeps, fire keeps watch, and poets paint." (Octavio Paz)

Allan Villavicencio's paintings contain few elements. They are nourished by a form he uses as a background and then expands. For him, our body determines our relationship to the world; he has, therefore, drawn inspiration from the photographs by Issey Miyake, influenced by the pleats of the fashion designer Madame Grès, brought to life by Greek statues where clothing dialogues with the body like a second skin. Villavicencio searches for this relationship between body and landscape in the animated feature *Fantastic Planet*, the aesthetic of which is reminiscent of the world of *Rick and Morty*, Alejandro Jodorowsky's *Dune*, the Surrealist works of Armand Simon, or Michelangelo's treatment of skin as fabric: something between life and death. Allan Villavicencio manages to create a unique atmosphere.

Where "the exterior is the interior, we enter places we have never been before." The uniqueness of his paintings: from afar, we can only see one element on the surface, underlined by elements from Aztec art using a green, purple, or dark blue palette. He uses metabolism as a metaphor, skin as a landscape, and maintains an ambiguous relationship between the body and the exterior. He formalises with photographs shot with his mobile phone. "I paint small details on the surface – a simple view from my window from where I see a small volcano – these are successions of windows, of inner windows."

The Active Side of Infinity can be interpreted on different levels. Indeed, Villavicencio's paintings superimpose elements and forms that, once peeled away, reveal traces of a landscape, a micro-universe. These paintings are themselves part of an organic network of frescoes that take over the gallery's walls. The use of different textures, spaces, and scales invites visitors on an initiatory journey, an inner meditative journey. It immerses us in our inner selves, "inside the earth ... which is to say, inside matter itself, and at levels so deep as to be the most inaccessible".

Anissa Touati



Allan Villavicencio in front of one of his murals, Mexico City Historical Centre, 2021. Diego Berruecos

ARTIST

Allan Villavicencio thinks of the pictorial process as metabolism in constant transformation, one that he develops through paintings and mixed media assemblages. His body of work challenges the every day to generate new narratives of perception. This contextualizes the pretext to seek the visible in unfolded perspectives and to interrogate the virtuality of the spaces we live in. By virtuality, Villavicencio means the imaginary visual scenarios we create when we pay attention to our surroundings, that can take place in small cracks, hidden creases and subtle shadows.

His practice is multidimensional, exploring various mediums including painting, drawing, collage, three-dimensional structures, installations and writing. It develops at the intersection of perception theories, the architecture topologies within the city landscapes, and the relationship between the clothing, the bodies and the objects that inhabit both the private and public spaces. Allan Villavicencio endows them with expansive and emotional qualities, creating “residual landscapes”. In this sense, his pieces reveal ecosystems of material, form, and texture, that highlight how the fragmentary nature of the works makes up the whole.

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Allan Villavicencio was awarded the Honorary Distinction for the XVIII Rufino Tamayo Painting Biennial in 2018 (Museo Tamayo, Mexico City) and is a three-time recipient of the Mexican National Fund for Culture and the Arts (FONCA).

He has completed several residencies including Cité des Arts (Paris, FR) and Casa Wabi (Costa Chica, MX).

His work has been exhibited in institutions in Mexico such as Museo Tamayo, Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Oaxaca, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Sonora, among others.

In the past years, Villavicencio has been part of many exhibitions in galleries and fairs in Mexico, France, the USA, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Spain, Colombia, Peru, and Austria. Recent solo shows include: frutiplanismo at Salón ACME (Mexico City, 2022) and Pieles ciegas at Galería Karen Huber (Mexico City, 2021).

His work has been reviewed in Frieze, Artsy, Viewpoint Colour, La Tempestad, Crash Magazine, Travesías; and is part of the permanent collections of Jorge Pérez Related Group (Miami), Museo MATE (Lima), Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Aguascalientes (Aguascalientes) and Colección Arena (Madrid).

In 2023, Villavicencio will inaugurate a solo show at Galerie Mitterrand in Paris as well as his first institutional solo show in Mexico City at Museo Experimental el Eco. His work will also be included in the group show Everything here is volcanic at Friedman Benda, NY.



The Active Side of Infinity, exhibition views at Galerie Mitterrand, Paris, France, 7 jan - 11 mar 2023



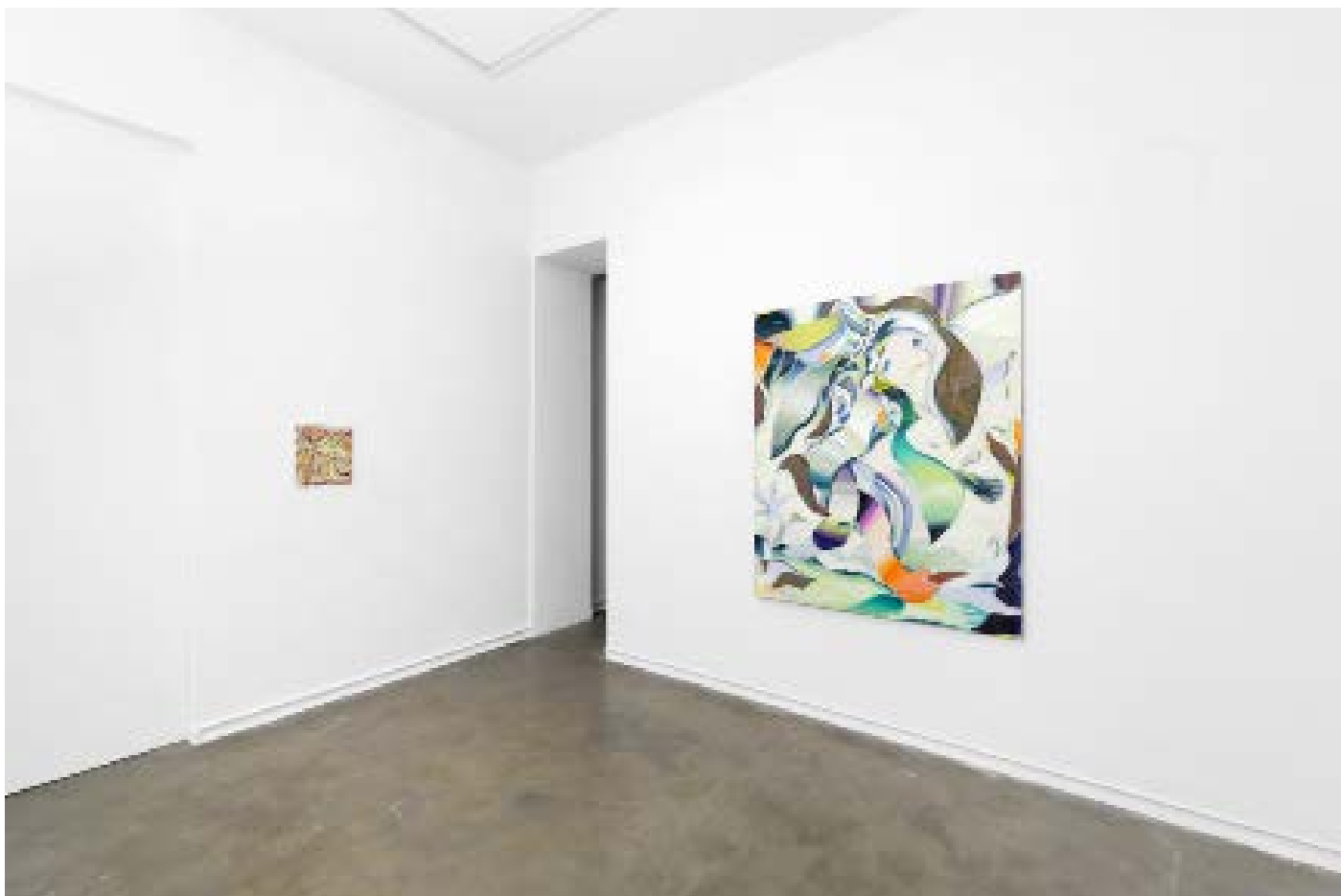


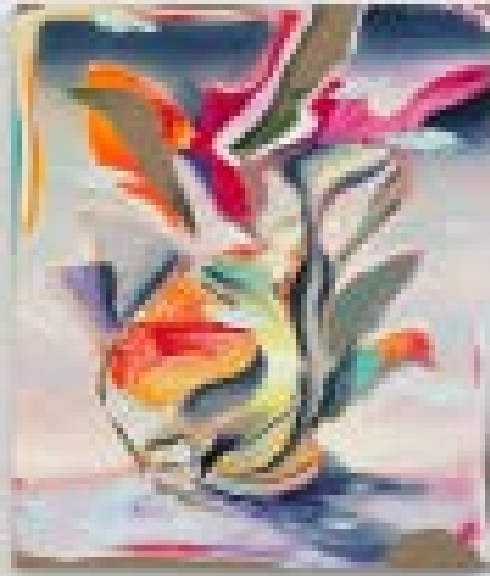
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Earthly delights, 2022

Practical Information :

Galerie Mitterrand - 79 rue du Temple - 75003 Paris
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Opening hours :

From Tuesday to Saturday 11am - 7pm and Monday by appointment

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