

## Oscar Murillo *A balancing act between collapse and spirit*

9 October–16 November 2024  
24 Grafton Street, London



Oscar Murillo, *Telegram*, 2013-2024  
© Oscar Murillo. Courtesy the artist and David Zwirner

*Darkness a place of radical freedom*

*Markings, reading and sending telegrams...constellations of thoughts and gestures*

*Untraceable landscapes. Concealed—irrational!*

*Fields of despair—scarred.*

*The playhouse of imperiled spirits*

*As our world becomes ever more hostile I must go home and be safe—I send to you these telegrams—telegrams of sympathy.*

*bruised and bleeding.*

*These words started with the untimely departure of my mentor Okwui Enwezor, in 2019—it was also the first time I thought of Manifestations. Manifestations now need to be Protests...*

*A decade ago on the eve of All the World's Futures we spoke of The Artist as Producer in Times of Crisis, a devastating crisis.*

*We miss you*

—Oscar Murillo, July 2024

Born in Colombia, Oscar Murillo (b. 1986) earned his BFA in 2007 from the University of Westminster, London, followed by his MFA in 2012 from the Royal College of Art, London. His first exhibition at David Zwirner, titled *A Mercantile Novel*, was held at the gallery in New York in 2014. Subsequent solo exhibitions by Murillo at David Zwirner include *binary function* (London, 2015), *through patches of corn, wheat and mud* (New York, 2016), *the build-up of content and information* (Hong Kong, 2018), *Manifestation* (London, 2019), *News* (Paris, 2020), and *Ourselves behind ourselves concealed* (New York, 2022).

A large-scale participatory installation by Murillo, *The flooded garden*, will be on view in the Turbine Hall at Tate Modern, London, from 20 July until 26 August 2024. Murillo's works and projects have been the subject of solo and two-person exhibitions at prominent institutions worldwide, including the Fundação de Serralves, Porto (2024); WIELS, Brussels (2024); Kunsthalle Wien, Austria (2024); KM21, The Hague (2022); Scuola Grande della Misericordia, Venice (2022); Saint Louis Art Museum, Missouri (2022); Fondazione Memmo, Rome (2021); Aspen Art Museum, Colorado (2019); Kunstverein in Hamburg, Germany (2019); The Shed, New York (2019); chi K11 art museum, Shanghai (2019); and Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, England (2019). Murillo was one of four artists to win the 2019 Turner Prize and received an accompanying exhibition at Turner Contemporary, Margate, England.

In 2017, a solo exhibition of the artist's work was on view at Haus der Kunst, Munich, and was accompanied by a comprehensive monograph published by the museum in association with David Zwirner Books. Other recent solo presentations of Murillo's work have been held at CAPC musée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux, France (2017); Museo de Arte de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá (2015); Centro Cultural Daoíz y Velarde, Madrid (2015); Artpace, San Antonio, Texas (2015); The Mistake Room, Los Angeles (2014); South London Gallery (2013); Rubell Family Collection, Miami (2012); and Serpentine Gallery, London (2012).

For Murillo's ongoing long-term project *Frequencies*, developed with members of the artist's family, studio team, and collaborators around the world, canvases are temporarily affixed to classroom desks in selected schools across the globe, encouraging students aged ten to sixteen to create any kind of mark making—drawing, writing, doodling. *Frequencies* was shown at the 56th Venice Biennale exhibition, *All the World's Futures*, in 2015. The following year, in 2016, it was presented at the 2nd Hangzhou Triennial of Fiber Art in China and the 3rd Aichi Triennial exhibition, *Homo Faber: A Rainbow Caravan*, in Japan. It has subsequently been presented at institutions such as the Haus der Kunst, Munich (2017); Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland, Ohio (2017); PinchukArtCentre, Kyiv (2017); Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton, England (2019); Swiss Institute, New York (2021); Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2021); Coachella Valley, California (2021); TANK Shanghai (2021); and Javett Art Centre, University of Pretoria, South Africa (2023). In 2015, David Zwirner Books published *Oscar Murillo: Frequencies*, which catalogues the first year of the project and includes reproductions of canvases and photographs of the schools and students involved. A subsequent volume, published in 2024 by Hatje Cantz, with texts by Mark Godfrey, Eleanor Nairne, Gabi Ngcobo, and Alessandro Rabottini, provides an archive of the many iterations of the *Frequencies* project that Murillo has organized over the past decade and beyond.

In 2023, Murillo was awarded an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, the University of Westminster.

Work by the artist is included in museum collections worldwide, including the Aïshti Foundation, Lebanon; Arts Council Collection, England; The Broad, Los Angeles; Dallas Museum of Art; Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris; Fondazione Prada, Milan; Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin; Kettle's Yard, University of Cambridge, England; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; The Museum of Contemporary

Art, Los Angeles; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Rubell Museum, Miami; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Seattle Art Museum; Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst (S.M.A.K.), Ghent; Taguchi Art Collection, Tokyo; and Tate, United Kingdom.

For all press inquiries, contact

Sara Chan +44 203 538 3165 [sara@davidzwirner.com](mailto:sara@davidzwirner.com)

Niamh Brogan +44 203 538 3165 [niamh@davidzwirner.com](mailto:niamh@davidzwirner.com)