

Adam Pendleton + Antoni Tàpies

May 11 – June 20, 2026

Alfonso Artiaco is pleased to present the first joint exhibition by Adam Pendleton and Antoni Tàpies at the gallery, in presence of the artist and Antoni Tàpies Estate's representative, his son Antoni Tàpies Barba and wife Natasha Hébert .

The show will open on May 9, 2026 from 11 am.

This two-person exhibition brings the work of Adam Pendleton into dialogue with that of Antoni Tàpies, one of the most influential figures in postwar European abstraction. Across generations and geographies, both artists approach painting as a field where language, material, and history intersect. Tàpies's charged surfaces – marked by signs, letters, and tactile accumulations – redefined the possibilities of painting in the second half of the twentieth century. Pendleton, a central figure in contemporary painting, similarly treats gesture, fragment, and typography as structural elements, using them to expand the formal and conceptual possibilities of abstraction.

Presented together, their works reveal unexpected affinities: an insistence on the surface as a site of inscription, a sustained engagement with text and symbol, and a shared interest in how abstraction can carry cultural, philosophical, and political weight. Rather than proposing a direct lineage, the exhibition stages a cross-generational conversation in which painting emerges as an open system – one capable of absorbing language, history, and material experimentation while continually renewing its own terms.

Adam Pendleton, a central figure in contemporary abstract painting, is known for works that push the boundaries of the medium through a sustained engagement with process, language, and form. He extends non-linear compositional traditions rooted in twentieth- and twenty-first-century painting. His work, a distilled layering of gesture and fragment, is marked by a precision reminiscent of Conceptual and Minimal art. In 2008, he began to define the working method for which he is now widely recognized as Black Dada – a critical framework that explores the relationship between Blackness, abstraction, and the historical avant-gardes.

Working in the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War and throughout the years of Francoist Spain, Antoni Tàpies developed a practice that reshaped the possibilities of painting in postwar Europe. Closely associated with the Catalan avant-garde and the group Dau al Set, his work centers on matter as both substance and sign. Incorporating materials such as sand, marble dust, earth, and fabric, Tàpies transformed the condition of the pictorial surface. His works operate as sites of accumulation, abrasion, and inscription, where letters, symbols, and marks oscillate between writing and image, legibility and erasure.

Adam Pendleton was born in 1984 in Richmond, Virginia, USA. He has exhibited internationally at major museums and institutions. Recent solo exhibitions include *Adam Pendleton: Can I Be?* at the Langen Foundation, Neuss, Germany (2026); *Adam Pendleton: Love, Queen* at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC (2025–2027); *Adam Pendleton: Blackness, White, and Light* at mumok, Vienna (2023–2024); *Adam Pendleton: These Things We've Done Together* at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (2022); and *Adam Pendleton: Who Is Queen?* at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (2021–2022). Pendleton's work is held in numerous public collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts; Tate, London; and the Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich.

Antoni Tàpies was born in Barcelona in 1923. Tàpies held early solo exhibitions at Galeries Laietanes, Barcelona (1950), and Martha Jackson Gallery, New York (1953), and participated in the Carnegie International the same year. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, he exhibited widely across Europe, the United States, Japan, and South America, and took part in the Venice Biennale in 1952, 1954, and 1958 before representing Spain at the 45th edition in 1993, where he was awarded the Golden Lion. Major retrospectives were organized at the Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris (1973), the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo (1977), the Jeu de Paume, Paris, and the Guggenheim Museum SoHo, New York (1994–95), and the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid (2000). His work is held in leading international collections, including the Museum of Modern Art and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Serpentine and Hayward Galleries, London; the Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin; and the Centre Pompidou, Paris. Alongside his artistic practice, he authored numerous publications, including *La pràctica de l'art* (1970) and *Memòria personal* (1977), and in 1984 founded the Fundació Antoni Tàpies in Barcelona to promote the study of contemporary art. He passed away in 2012.