

**Angel Otero**

***Piel de Luna***

**November 1 – December 22, 2018**

**74-18, Yulgok-ro 3-gil, Seoul**

@lehmannmaupin | #angelotero

**Opening Reception: Thursday, November 1, 5-7 PM**



*Piel de Luna*, 2018, oil skins on fabric, 106 x 80 x 3 inches, 269.2 x 203.2 x 7.6 cm.  
Courtesy the artist and Lehmann Maupin, New York, Hong Kong, and Seoul.

Seoul, October 16, 2018—Lehmann Maupin is pleased to announce Angel Otero's *Piel de Luna*. For his first solo exhibition in Korea, the New York-based artist will debut a series of recent large-scale paintings, paint collages on paper, and a tapestry-like work composed entirely of oil paint that hangs directly on the wall. Otero's practice is rooted in the history of painting and remains dedicated to the tradition of abstraction, recontextualized through his innovative process. His richly textured paintings engage in an exploration of memory by addressing art historical themes and also grappling with the artist's personal history. Through experimental techniques and physically engaging processes, Otero pushes the boundaries of his materials, drawing much of his inspiration from the inherent qualities of oil paint. The artist will be present for an opening reception at the gallery on Thursday, November 1, from 5 to 7 PM.

Otero begins each painting by reproducing varied reference images in thick oil paint on a large plate of glass. Once nearly dry, the artist scrapes a skin of paint from the glass surface, allowing chance to play a role in abstracting the images through the process of removal. He then cuts and reworks these "oil skin" fragments into a collaged composition that contain hints of the original painted imagery, but within a new and more complexly layered abstract composition.

Through years of careful observation of the interactions and structural tendencies of the material, Otero has forged this individualistic process and style based on materiality and the endeavor of conflating the genres of both representational and abstract painting. The reference image for each painting originates from research, personal memories or belongings, or the style and palette of a historical painter. Through his unique processes of painting, drawing, and printmaking, Otero digests these varied references, creating works that are visually autonomous from the original imagery.

Most recently, Otero has removed the paint from the canvas altogether in his small-scale collages and large-scale works, which are composed entirely of oil paint and hang directly on the wall. Both of these series

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arose from the remains of old and new oil skins that are cut and then collaged together to create even more complex compositions exploring paint, color, line, and form. In the large wall hanging and the collages, Otero utilizes the fragments of the oil skins as individual brush strokes, creating an even more sculptural version of his previous paintings.

Several new paintings, such as the titular painting *Piel de Luna* (2018), created for the exhibition reveal references in color palette and gesture to abstract expressionist painters such as Willem de Kooning and Jackson Pollock. Otero reworks these influences from the postwar generation, erasing his original overt references through the insertion of negative spaces or layering to create an entirely new vernacular rooted in the past yet representative of the time in which it was created. For Otero, the solution to expanding the genre of abstract painting, while maintaining relevancy in contemporary art, lies in an exploration of this transition between representation and abstraction, as well as in allowing the nature of oil paint as a material to play a role in the final composition. In this way, the paint itself emerges as an important conceptual component, mobilizing ideas of chance, translation, and aesthetic vernacular, while the images and themes it is used to visualize become fragments or parts of a history energized by the material.

## About the artist

Angel Otero (b. 1981, Santurce, Puerto Rico; lives and works in Brooklyn, New York) received his MFA in 2009 and his BFA in 2007 from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Solo exhibitions of his work have been organized at the Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York (2017); Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (2016); Centro Atlantico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain (2015); SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA (2013); and Contemporary Art Museum, Raleigh, NC (2012). Select groups exhibitions and biennials featuring his work include *Inherent Structure*, Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH (2018); *Surface Area*, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York (2016); *Nexo / Nexus: Latin American Connections in the Midwest*, DePaul Art Museum, Chicago (2016); *6th Prague Biennale* (2013); *El Museo Bienal The [S] Files*, El Museo del Barrio, New York (2011) and *Queens International 2012: Three Points Make a Triangle*, Queens Museum, New York (2012), among others. Otero is the recipient of the Leonore Annenberg Fellowship in the Visual Arts. His work can be found in collections at DePaul Art Museum, Chicago; Istanbul Modern, Istanbul; Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS; the North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC; and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA.

## About Lehmann Maupin

Rachel Lehmann and David Maupin founded Lehmann Maupin in 1996. The gallery represents a diverse range of American artists, as well as artists and estates from across Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, and the Middle East. It has been instrumental in introducing numerous artists from around the world in their first New York exhibitions. Known for championing artists who create groundbreaking and challenging forms of visual expression, the gallery prioritizes personal investigations and individual narratives. Lehmann Maupin prizes the distinct conceptual approaches that its artists offer on the essential matters that shape international culture today, including gender, class, religion, history, politics, and globalism. In 2013, with two locations in New York, significant interest in its artists abroad, and growing opportunities in new markets, Lehmann Maupin opened an additional location in Hong Kong, followed by Seoul in 2017. For more information on the gallery and its artists, visit [www.lehmannmaupin.com](http://www.lehmannmaupin.com).

## Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Marilyn Minter, Through October 27, 2018, Pedder Building, HONG KONG

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[lehmannmaupin.com](http://lehmannmaupin.com)

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Suh Se Ok, Through October 27, 2018, West 22nd Street, NEW YORK

Nari Ward, *CORRECTIONAL*, Through November 17, 2018, 74-18, Yulgok-ro 3-gil, SEOUL

Catherine Opie, *The Modernist*, November 1, 2018—January 17, 2019, West 24th Street, NEW YORK

Kader Attia, November 1—December 22, 2018, Pedder Building, HONG KONG

Mandy El Sayegh, November 8—December 22, 2018, West 22nd Street, NEW YORK

McArthur Binion, January 17—February 23, 2019, West 24th Street, NEW YORK

For more information on Angel Otero or other Lehmann Maupin artists, please contact Kathryn McKinney at +1 212 255 2923 or [kathryn@lehmannmaupin.com](mailto:kathryn@lehmannmaupin.com).

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