

En El Lago
Solo Exhibition by Luis Olaso at Zona Maco 2024

7 - 11 February 2024



Luis Olaso, *Composition for a table with quinces and a blue vase with flowers*, 2023, Oil, acrylic, oil bar and oil pastel on canvas, 78 3/4 x 63 in, 200 x 160 cm

En el lago, or *In the lake* in English, is a title that holds great weight in Spanish culture. Rich in symbolism deeply rooted in Spanish popular culture and music and blending Olaso's fascination with nature, this exhibition at the 2024 edition of Zona Maco showcases seven new oil paintings from the Bilbao-based artist depicting traditional still-life objects with a unique twist.

When thinking of nature, the lake holds a special place in Olaso's mind as it serves as an allegory of a meeting place. The serene yet magical lake is capable of bringing forth a dream-like universe, where everyday elements take on fresh colours and forms of highly expressive content. Yellows, blues, reds, and greens entwine and

clash in Olaso's liberating mark-making process. The abstract portrayal of traditional still-life objects, while paying homage to Mexican artist Diego Rivera's calla lilies paintings, links the canvas with the non-physical space of the lake and the grander themes of life and death. With the lake acting as a catalyst, fusion happens in nature, signified by flowers and plants, bursting with life energy. Additionally, the ornamental elements, such as pots, jars, and vases are representatives of Spanish dining culture, reflecting an immersive social experience in Olaso's environment.

Challenging the expectations of still-life painting, Olaso is able to create uninhibited and visceral paintings reflecting both the purity and irrationality found in natural elements as well as in the subconscious self. Perhaps more accurately described as 'unstill' rather than 'still-life', this series of large-scale paintings by Luis Olaso captures a special personal moment in the artist's life, marking his reverence and fascination with the lush nature and vibrant Spanish culture in dining, music, garden, and beyond.

For more information, images, and comment, please contact: press@jdmalat.com

JD Malat Gallery Booth D106
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