

MORGAN LEHMAN

534 West 24th Street, New York, New York 10011

DISONARE

EL QUINCENAL presents FOLLOW THE BLUE GAZE by Katia Santibañez

Katia Santibañez is an American artist born in 1964 in France. She was trained in Microbiology before getting her degree in 1990 at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Paris. She then moved to NYC and has exhibited widely in the US since 1998. She is a multidisciplinary artist working with painting, drawing, printmaking, video, and photography. She usually exhibits in New York City and is represented in Houston by Texas Gallery. Her work is included in private and public collections. She has been a resident at Yaddo (NY), Casa Wabi (Mexico), Albers Foundation (CT), Civitella Ranieri (Italy), and the Sitka Center (OR).



The painting *Follow the Blue Gaze*, made in 2016 with acrylic on wood of a modest size of 24 x 18 inches was inspired by snails found in the south of France, in 2012 where I stayed for 4 months. Observing the pattern of the shell, I was attracted by the shape of the spiral. I have been interested in notions of structure, form, color, time, and space. In order to have a balanced composition I

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have been using the grid, in this case drawn with a pencil. I inserted and painted the spiral directly with a fine brush into each square. Each spiral is similar but different. To bring the idea of rhythm, I decided to make the rows of the grid in two different sizes. The snail has been metamorphosed into a mysterious pattern: pinwheels leaving the center with white dot, an empty space where the eye of the viewer is attracted and cannot ignore.

Interested in perception of colors, I decided to use a palette of twenty different blues, pairing the light and the dark. The contrast between them creates a place to catch the eyes of the viewer, aiming at mesmerizing her by the intense experience of the colors and the gradations, by the optical game enhancing the structure, each person seeing colors differently. I want her to be transported in each spiral, to travel back and forth between the edges of the painting and the center.

The past is part of the present, which will unfold to the future. When the viewer leaves the paintings, I want her to be willing to go back to it in her own mind and on her own time. The notion of space is sometimes unintentional depending on the juxtaposition of the colors and where the background flirts with the pattern, it can come forward, or the pattern can come forward, depending on the interaction between colors, creating a movement and optical illusion.

Follow the Blue Gaze transports the viewer into a state of poetic contemplation, where real elements of nature give birth to abstract forms and shapes, engaging the perception of colors and creating a moment of vibration, where the imagination is stimulated. It created a new place filled with beauty, poetry, and metamorphosis, which I want to share with the world and for the world.



8:22pm – 3 January 2017