

ANGEL OTERO

Angel Otero was born in 1981 in Santurce, Puerto Rico, where he resided until moving to Chicago in 2004. He currently splits his time between New York and Puerto Rico. In 2009, Otero was included in the exhibition 'Constellations' at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, shortly after receiving his MFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Otero's practice is known for employing highly innovative techniques that challenge the parameters of his materials, revealing the intrinsic qualities of paint. His works are rooted in abstract image making and engage with ideas of memory through addressing art history, as well as his own lived experience. Otero is best known for the Oil Skin works he began in 2010, an ongoing series that demonstrates the inherently transformative nature of the artist's practice as well as his dedication to expanding the visual field of abstract expressionism. Using oil paint layered onto glass and peeled off at a partially dried state, Otero recomposes his 'skins' onto canvas to make entirely new images and patterns. This methodical process is extended to his Transfer Series (2013) which utilizes imagery from his own personal history. Referencing historical etchings, the artist traces images drawn from his family photographs into horizontal lines with silicone—he eventually transfers the composition onto a large piece of paper that becomes the plate he will cover in raw pigment. Otero then lays his canvas onto these mediums to create a distorted monotype of the original imagery.

His more recent works have continued to explore chance-based processes and their potential to convey memory and history through materiality. In 2017, Otero debuted a series of large-scale sculptural oil paintings that resemble tapestry. Hanging freely, these works incorporate salvaged materials from his studio, off-cuts of previous paintings, and found objects that are significant to his native Puerto Rico. The many fragments that make up his compositions become powerful meditations on past and present.

The artist's early childhood memories are brought to the forefront in his most recent series of paintings which see a return to figuration combined with his hallmark style of abstraction. Otero paints and collages dreamlike scenes upon his vibrant structured canvases, depicting objects and spaces that are loosely based on personal memories associated with the domestic sphere. Probing the boundaries of figuration and abstraction, Otero's most recent works continue to expand the possibilities of painting and materiality.

Otero's work is in numerous public and private collections including the Berezdivin Collection, Puerto Rico; Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York; DePaul Art Museum, Chicago; Istanbul Modern, Turkey; Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City; Margulies Collection, Miami; Neriman Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas; North Carolina Museum of Art; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Speed Art Museum, Louisville; UBS Art Collection, Chicago; and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.



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B. 1981, SANTURCE, PUERTO RICO

LIVES AND WORKS IN NEW YORK AND PUERTO RICO

2009 MFA, SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO, CHICAGO, IL

2007 BFA, SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO, CHICAGO, IL

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024

Angel Otero: That First Rain in May, Hauser & Wirth, Los Angeles, CA

2023

Angel Otero: The Ocean in My Room, Vito Schnabel Gallery, St. Moritz, Switzerland

Angel Otero: The Sea Remembers, Hauser & Wirth, Hong Kong

2022

Angel Otero: Swimming Where Time Was, Hauser & Wirth, New York, NY

2021

The Fortune of Having Been There, Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY

2020

Angel Otero: Broken Record, Harper's Books, East Hampton NY

Angel Otero: Present Memory, Lehmann Maupin, online

2019

Milagros, Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY

2017

Angel Otero: Elegies, Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York, NY

2016

Everything and Nothing, Contemporary Art Museum Houston, Houston, TX

Angel Otero: Murmurs, Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects, Culver City, CA

Born In The Echoes, Lehmann Maupin, Hong Kong

2015

Angel Otero, Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY

Lago, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, IL

Pintura Ascendente, Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain

2014

Nuevos Trabajos, Galería Leyendecker, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain

Anachronic, Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects, Los Angeles, CA

2013

Gates of Horn and Ivory, Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY

Angel Otero: recent work, Walter Otero Contemporary Art, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Material Discovery, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah GA, Hong Kong

2012

The old lansquenet is laughing at us, Brand New Gallery, Milan, Italy

New Works: Angel Otero, Contemporary Art Museum, Raleigh, NC

Angel Otero, Galerie Isa, Mumbai, India

Angel Otero, Istanbul '74, Istanbul, Turkey

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2011

Memento, Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY

The Dangerous Ability to Fascinate Other People, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, IL

2010

Touch With Your Eyes, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL

2009

Angel Otero, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, IL

2008

Cooking Boogaloo, Contemporary Art Workshop Gallery, Chicago, IL

Angel Otero: Recent Paintings, Union League Club of Chicago, Chicago, IL

2006

Revelando Enigmas, Galeria Prinardi, San Juan, Puerto Rico

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024

The Neverending Story: The Dream, Vito Schnabel Gallery, St. Moritz, Switzerland

Insuales, Walter Otero Contemporary Art, San Juan, Puerto Rico

2023

Angel Otero and Leslie Martinez: Current Speed, Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY

These Days, Vito Schnabel Gallery, New York, NY

Escape, Hauser & Wirth, Southampton NY

2021

The Beatitudes of Malibu, David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2020

Artists for Biden, David Zwirner, online

Artists for New York, Hauser & Wirth, New York, NY

Life During Wartime: Art in the Age of Coronavirus, University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum, online
be/longing, Lehmann Maupin, Hong Kong

2019

The Other Side of Now: Foresight in Contemporary Caribbean Art, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL

Cut: Abstraction in the United States from the 1970s to the Present, Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, Miami, FL

With a Capital P: Selections by Six Painters, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL

Coffee, Rhum, Sugar & Gold: A postcolonial Paradox, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA

2018

Gridology, Lehmann Maupin, Hong Kong

Relational Undercurrents: Contemporary Art of the Caribbean Archipelago, Miriam & Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery, New York, NY

Inherent Structure, Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus OH

Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts, American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, NY

2017

Chaos Theory, Sag Harbor, New York, NY

Art Goes Logomo, Makasiini Contemporary, Turku, Finland

2016

Splotch, Sperone Westwater, New York, NY

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Surface Area, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY

Nexo / Nexus: Latin American Connections in the Midwest, DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL

2015

Civilization and Its Discontents: SAIC Alumni Exhibition, Sullivan Galleries, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Inherited, BRIC, New York, NY

The Fire Next Time, Galería Leyendecker, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain

Future Seasons Past, Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY

Piece by Piece: Building a Collection, Selections from the Christy and William C. Gautreaux Collection, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO

Horizon, Lehmann Maupin, Hong Kong

PKM Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

2014

Fusion: Art of the 21st Century, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA

Between Worlds, Galerie ISA, Mumbai, India

Unbound: Contemporary Art After Frida Kahlo, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL

Mystic Fire, Paradise Row, London, United-Kingdom

Contemporary Art Museum Houston, Houston, TX

2013

10 under 40, Istanbul '74, Istanbul, Turkey

Amor Fati, Pioneer Works, New York, NY

A Pinch of Saffron, Dash of Vermouth, Dodge Gallery, New York, NY

Xtraction: A Survey of new approaches in abstraction, The Hole, New York, NY

Transforming the Known: Works from the Bert Kreuk Collection, Gemeentemuseum Den Haag, The Hague, Netherlands

6th Prague Biennale, Prague, Czech Republic

On Painting, Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno, Les Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain

Sommer Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv, Israel

Outside the Lines, Contemporary Art Museum Houston, Houston TX

2012

Sotheby's, New York, NY

The Sound of Painting, Palazzo Saluzzo Paesana, Turin, Italy

Surface in Volume, Luce Gallery, Turin, Italy

Istanbul '74, Istanbul, Turkey

Queens International 2012: Three Points Make a Triangle, Queens Museum, New York, NY

2011

The Second Seating for the Last Supper, Galería Leyendecker, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain

Oh Wow Gallery, Miami, FL

El Museo's Biennial: The (S) Files, El Museo del Barrio, New York, NY

American Patrons of the Tate and W Magazine, Kreëmart New York, NY

NY: New Perspectives, Brand New Gallery, Milan, Italy

Soho House, New York, NY

The Arts Club, London, UK

Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS

2010

Misericordia, Prism, Los Angeles, CA

Touched, Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY

2009

Constellations, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL

Variations on a Theme, Kavi Gupta, Chicago, IL

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2008

New Wave, Galería Leyendecker, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain

Fridge, Normal Projects Gallery, Chicago, IL

Latino Nation, USA, University Museum at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL

New Insight Exhibition, Art Chicago, Chicago, IL

Group Painting Exhibition, Bucket Rider Gallery, Chicago, IL

2007

You Are In My Space, Gallery G2 and Project Space, Chicago, IL

Open and Closed, Contemporary Art Workshop, Chicago, IL

2006

Universality of Art, Galeria Prinardi USA, West Palm Beach, FL

Tributo a Basquiat Puerto Rico, Galeria Prinardi at Hotel Normandie, San Juan, Puerto Rico

2005

Visions of Excess, New Space, Chicago, IL

AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

2017

Vannucci Artist Residency, Umbria, Italy

2013

Anderson Ranch Artist Residency, Aspen CO

2009

The Leonore Annenberg Fellowship for the Performing and Visual Arts

2007

Trustee Scholarship, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

First Place Award and Members Choice Award, Visual Arts Competition

Civic and Arts Foundation, Union League Club of Chicago

Art Institute of Chicago, BFA Fellowship Award

2005

Recognition Merit Scholarship, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Berezdivin Collection, Puerto Rico

Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, NY

DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL

Istanbul Modern, Istanbul, Turkey

Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City MO

Margulies Collection, Miami, FL

Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS

North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY

Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY

UBS Art Collection, Chicago, IL

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA