Maria Jose Benvenuto "Nature's Pulse"

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

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My latest series of abstract works is inspired by the landscape memories of North Head National Park in Manly, Australia, where my studio is nestled. These paintings are imbued with a vibrant energy, with contrasting colors that create an atmosphere of contemplation. Color, form, and composition are fundamental elements of this series, guided by intuition and creation that emerges directly from the subconscious, drawing on the deep reservoirs of memory.

Originally from Chile, I have been living in Australia for the past six years. This duality of experiences is dynamically and gesturally reflected in my paintings, where memories from both Chile and Australia intertwine. This process captures the essence of freedom that comes with living away from one's country of origin–a freedom that speaks to a sense of belonging to the world.

As I bring this series to Dubai, I am excited to connect with an audience that appreciates the fusion of diverse cultures and the vibrant energy of a global city. Dubai, with its own dynamic landscapes and rich cultural tapestry, mirrors the themes of freedom and connection found in my work. The expansive vistas of North Head and the panoramic beauty of Dubai both encourage a profound connection to the most intimate parts of oneself, translating into a dynamic, gestural expression on the canvas.

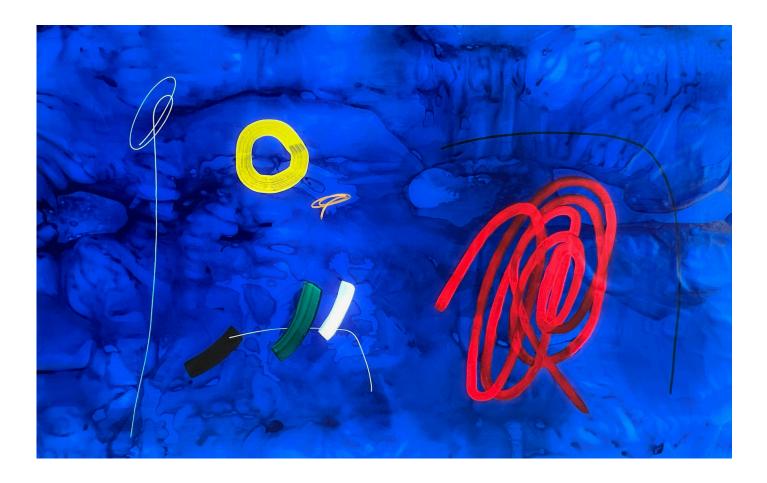
Through this series, I aim to convey the unique vibrancy and freedom of the landscapes that inspire me, both in Australia and beyond. In Dubai, a city that embodies innovation and creativity, I hope my work will resonate with viewers and inspire a shared appreciation for the universal beauty of our world's diverse landscapes.



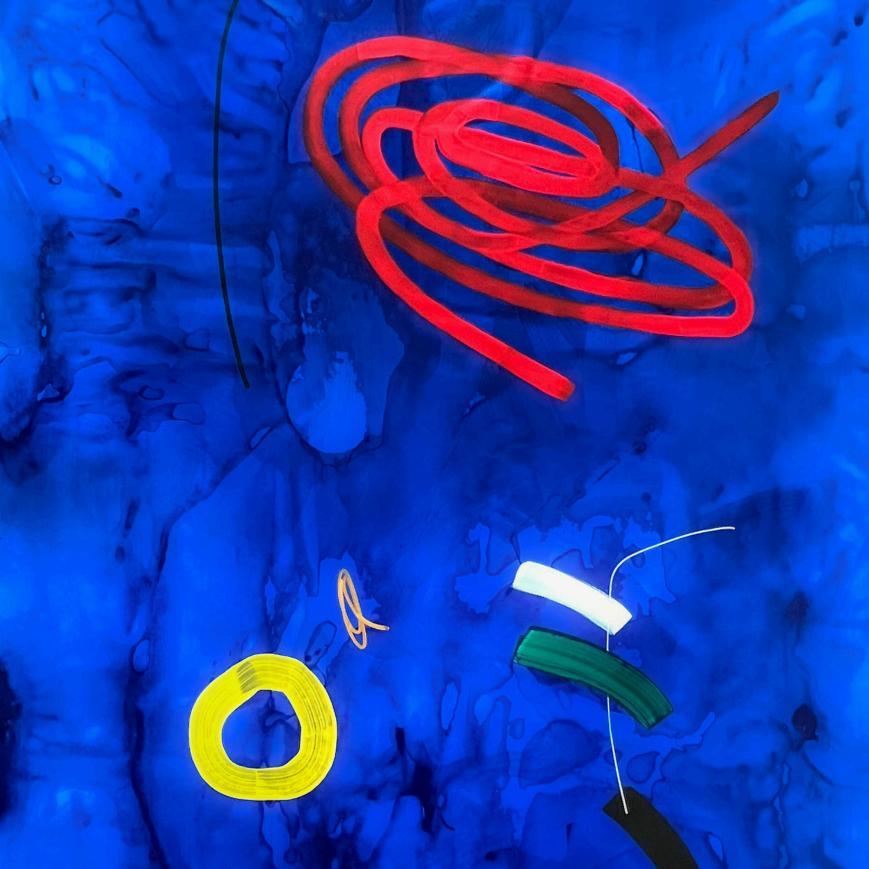
Landscape Synthesis 2 2023 Acrylic on linen 120 x 90 cm



Landscape Synthesis 2023 Acrylic on linen 120 x 200 cm



Oceanic vibrations 2024 Acrylic on canvas 130 x 200 cm





Gold and white 2022 Acrylic on linen 120 x 90 cm



Snowy days 2023 Acrylic on 100% cotton paper 76 x 56 cm





Australian Sienna 2023 Acrylic on 100% cotton paper 76 x 56 cm Beach memories 2023 Acrylic on canvas 150 x 150 cm



Olive green brushstrokes 2024 Acrylic on canvas 120 x 90 cm







Magenta 5 2023 Acrylic on 100% cotton paper 76 x 56 cm Magenta 4 2022 Acrylic on linen 120 x 120 cm





Olive green 2023 Acrylic on 100% cotton paper 76 x 56 cm Green Foliage 2023 Acrylic on Canvas 150 x 220 cm

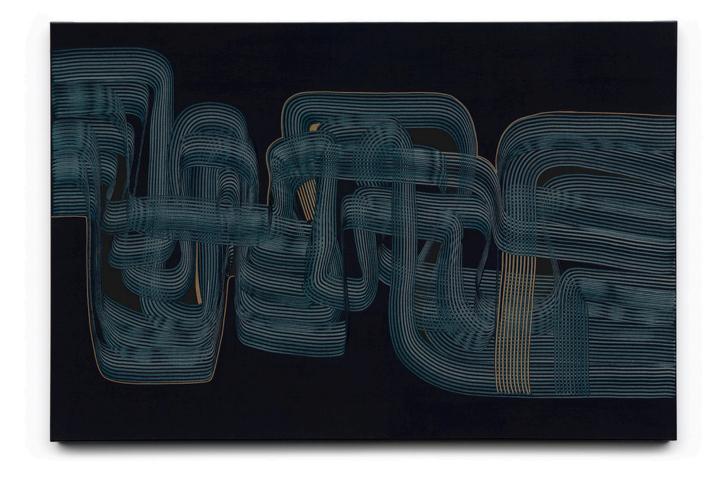


Harmony in Green 2023 Acrylic on linen 120 x 200 cm



View From The Lookout 2023 Acrylic on Linen 120 x 200 cm





Midnight blue 2023 Acrylic on 100% cotton paper 76 x 56 cm Ocean memories 5 2023 Acrylic on linen 120 x 180 cm

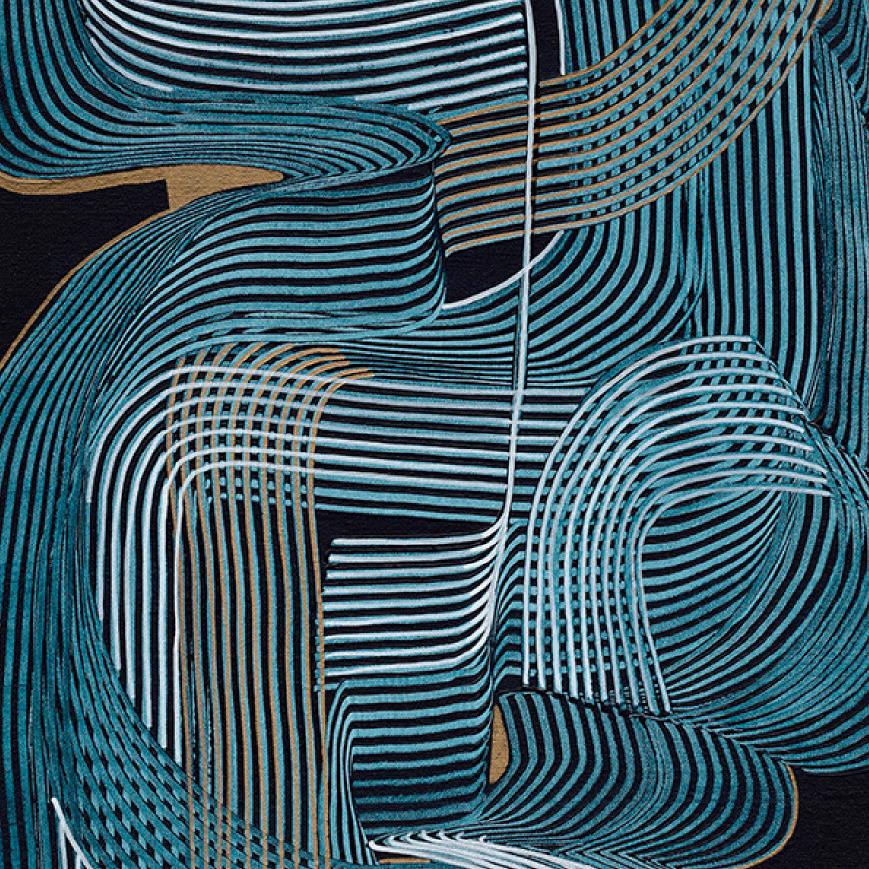


Ocean view 1 2023 Acrylic on canvas 120 x 90 cm





Ocean View 2 2023 Acrylic on canvas 120 x 90 cm





Blue and orange view 1 2022 Acrylic on linen 120 x 90 cm



Blue ocean view 2 2023 Acrylic on linen 120 x 120 cm



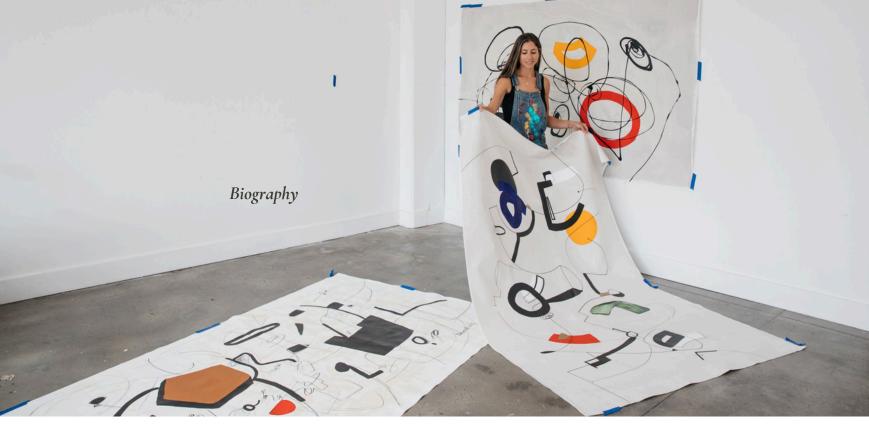
Nature Reserve Foliage 2023 Acrylic on Canvas 100 x 200 cm





Dynamic Symphony Stainless steel Electroplating gold finish 120 cm





Growing up in the mountains of Santiago, Chile, abstract artist María Jose Benvenuto moved to Australia in 2018. Migrating from the crowded streets and busy atmosphere to the quiet and calming aspects of the Northern Beaches in Sydney, led to a reconnection with nature in an entirely new way.

Using gestural brushstrokes or stains across the medium, Benvenuto focuses on line and detail to build a narration of the life around her. She draws back to significant events, the people she's met, or the changing landscape. Fundamentally, the artist surprises herself every day, shocking herself with what's not familiar. From the changing seasons to the sweeping ocean – she is ever surrounded by inspiration, in awe of its beauty.

Benvenuto found her calling within abstract works, focusing on what cannot be represented. In her artworks, the artist wants to explore and create new imagery to navigate the current world. Working from the mind, using memories to shape her composition, Benvenuto connects with her audience through visual representation; a soft curve becoming a wave, or gestural mark-making turning into long grass dancing in the wind. Her works narrate an exploration of textile, material and technique, probing the viewer to move closer to the works, at times leaving the linen raw inviting an organic aesthetic. Geometric shapes, sharp lines, or paint gestures activate the viewer's eye in an array of multi-colour. The colours reflect Benvenuto's studio and home on North Head, Sydney – a place with overwhelming vistas and indigenous plant life. The tones and shades are ever-changing, in both nature and within the artist's oeuvre. Returning to black, orange, blue, green, red, yellow – they are the colours of the everyday. The rich landscape or yellows of the sun, ever-present in Sydney, or deep and moody blues from the ocean that is a daily awe-reminder.

As Benvenuto seeks out her connections, she invites her bodily response working across the canvas in a Pollock-esque manner. She engages an almost physical dance – an extension from the painter's hand, built through action. With a palette of acrylics, ink, watercolour on linen or cotton, the artist works in large scale between the floor and the wall. Using her body to flick and work the paint or refocus on building depth in drips and layers; they are in motion together.

Benvenuto's final image is focused on colour relations, as the environment instigates the patterns. Within her abstract oeuvre, there are in-depth investigations between the links of nature – from the sandstone rocks to the crushing South Pacific Ocean. Yet, the artist leaves her work open to personal interpretation as a storyteller that lets you become the author.

SOLO SHOWS

- 2023 "Rhythms' of nature", M. Contemporary Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2023 "The view", The Arx Gallery, London, England
- 2022 "Dialogues of movement", M. Contemporary Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2021 "The stroke", M. Contemporary Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2019 "Sonnets of an Andean Gesture", M Contemporary Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2018 "Stories", CV Gallery, Alonso de Córdova 4355, Vitacura, Chile
- 2018 "Snapshots of reality", Casas de lo Matta, Vitacura, Chile
- 2017 "Active presence", Madhaus Gallery, Santiago, Chile

GROUP SHOWS

- 2023 Sydney Contemporary Art Fair", Sydney, Australia
- 2022 "Parc Lima Art Fair", Lima, Perú
- 2022 "Sydney Contemporary Art Fair", Sydney, Australia
- 2022 "Behind the canvas" The Arx Gallery, London, England
- 2021 "Sydney Contemporary Art Fair", Sydney, Australia
- 2021 "Confinis", Paris, France
- 2020 "Sydney Contemporary Art Fair", Sydney, Australia
- 2019 "Sydney Contemporary Art Fair", Sydney, Australia
- 2018 "Art Stgo", GAM, Chile
- 2017 "Aqua Art Miami", Art Basel Miami, United States
- 2017 "With eyes of a woman" Ojo Rojo Gallery, Chile
- 2017 "Connecting" Telefónica Foundation, Chile
- 2017 "Art Stgo", GAM, Chile
- 2017 "Scope Basel", Switzerland
- 2017 "Active presence", Madhaus Gallery, Chile
- 2016 "Red Dot Art Fair", Miami, United States
- 2015 "Live painting", Faxxi, Chile
- 2015 "The spontaneous order", Fundación para el progreso, FPP, Chile
- 2015 "Live painting", Faxxi, Chile
- 2014 "Experiment", Opps Gallery, Avenida Italia, Chile
- 2013 "No hurry", Macchina Gallery, Second floor, Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile
- 2013 "The New Florence Bienale 2013", Forteza de Bazzo, Italia
- 2012 "Student painting" Universidad Católica de Chile", Salón Audi, Santiago de Chile, Chile

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Artist's Statement by Maria Jose Benvenuto

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