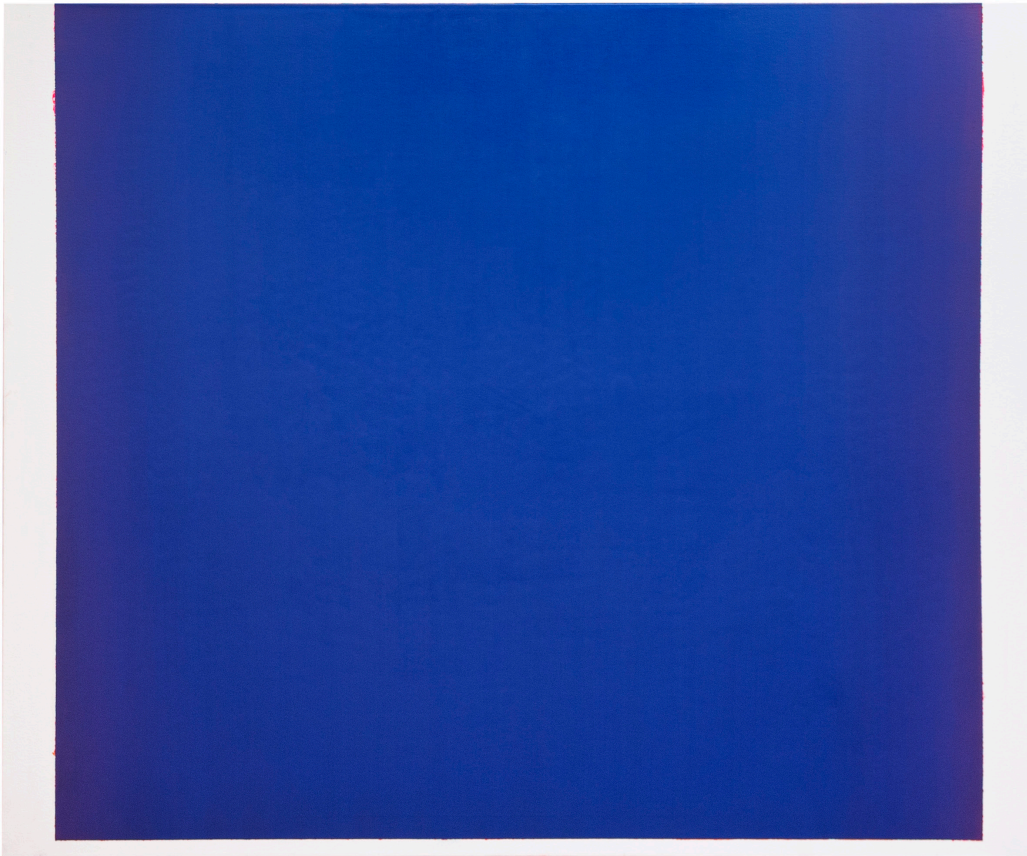


MARIANE IBRAHIM



SERGIO LUCENA: *THE BLUE THAT EMBRACES ME...*

March 12 - April 10, 2021

The Blue that embraces me... highlights the silent essence that illuminates the memory of such things that, individually and intimately, bring us back to ourselves. These seminal landscapes seek to identify the contours of life, presenting a kind of tracing of the soul as the artist views his work as a spiritual language, a way to see life as a sacred experience of interrelations.

The show marks a defining moment in the artists career as Lucena's artistic production is moving toward a wider understanding of "limit" as a concept. The limit being both the environs that define a space and those naturally perceived. As a painter, Lucena felt the need to run against the limits of language. The duplicity of these slivers of light is the boundary that invites us to extend beyond the previously established liminal environments and spatial interstices to expand our point of view and create a new and unanticipated permeance.

The artist emphasizes, "The emergence of vertical axis marks a fundamental change in my trajectory, based on the perception of a connection between the earthly and the heavenly, the concrete and the sublime."

Undeterred by the countless layers of paint, the building up of light and its multifaceted exposure demonstrating materializations is in a constant ethereal state of suspension, the works brightly colored slits and transition in color, suggest the existence of other dimensions and times only foreseen in the blink of an eye.



BIOGRAPHY:

Sergio Lucena (b. 1963, Paraíba, Brazil; lives and works in São Paulo) creates dreamy and vivid paintings coated in misty pastel tones that create a kind of sheer veil the artist refers to as “paint dust.” Yet, the idea of a light and thin powder is the opposite extreme of what the eye sees in his works consisting of thick layers of paint. It is in the thin delicate layers accumulating that perhaps this perception of residue resides. Of something like dust accumulating slowly, almost invisible to the eye, but capable of covering everything.

Lucena’s large abstract paintings reflect the disenchanting expectations of an artist in introspective contemplation, in a world embedded in ghostly mysticism, the overflowing light emulating the existence of an alter-world. The superposition of colors and geometrical forms highlight the duality of light and dark, proximity and distance, materiality and spirituality.

Lucena has participated in workshops, cultural exchanges and residencies in Berlin, Washington, D.C. and Denmark with exhibitions in galleries and art institutions in Brazil and globally. In 2012, he won the Mário Pedrosa Prize for 2011 contemporary artist, awarded by the Brazilian Association of Art Critics (ABCA).

Sales & General Inquiries

info@marianeibrahim.com

Press Inquiries:

press@marianeibrahim.com

Image Credit: (1) Sergio Lucena, *The Blue that embraces me*, Blue Series, 2020. (2) Sergio Lucena, *Between the Red and the Blue lives the Silence*, Blue Series, 2020. Courtesy of Mariane Ibrahim. Copyright © 2019 Mariane Ibrahim, All rights reserved.

MARIANE IBRAHIM