



ENOC PEREZ

THE CINEMATIC SELF

2 October – 22 November 2019

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The Cinematic Self

Ben Brown Fine Arts is delighted to present Enoc Perez: *The Cinematic Self*, the gallery's first exhibition with Puerto Rican-American artist Enoc Perez. This will be Perez's first exhibition in the UK in over ten years and will feature new and recent artworks from his evocative series of interiors paintings.

Born in 1967 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Perez moved to New York in the 1980s to start his studies at the prestigious Pratt Institute. Fascinated by the city and its quintessential artists, Perez developed a distinct artistic vocabulary using architecture and spaces as a lens through which to examine symbols of power, identity, and aesthetics, both national and personal. He became known for his paintings of iconic utopian architecture, including those of American embassies around the world, and post-war American landmarks, his most celebrated work to date.

The Cinematic Self marks a bold new direction for the artist. Moving away from exterior images of architecture, Perez takes a step inside, delving into a myriad of interiors inhabited by renowned figures - artists, collectors and eccentrics of the twentieth century. Painted with vibrant colours, the artworks explore private spaces and examine how these glimpses into their dwellings can function concomitantly as portraits and formalistic exercises in what he refers to as 'brushless' painting. The artist developed this distinctive technique in the late 1990s in response to the New York tradition of painter as printmaker, and the blurring of the space between them. Perez transfers oil paint to the canvas by means of pressing and rubbing multiple small impressions which are gradually built up one by one to form the whole image.

In this new series of works Perez focuses on the minutiae of these diverse personalities; from a

tiger skin rug strewn in front of Andy Warhol screen-prints in Fred Hughes' Factory office, to the Rolling Stones' lips cut-out displayed in the decadent mirrored interiors of Villa Nellcôte where they recorded Exile on Main Street, to Le Corbusier's drawing tools laid out on his drafting table in front of one of his own paintings. Conspicuously absent of the central figures, these spaces are strikingly expressive in their own right, revealing how individuality can be constructed through personal effects.

Further paintings capture pivotal moments such as Elvis Presley's legendary Jungle Room at Graceland where the ailing rock star made his final recordings, while another work features David Bowie's unmade bed following a night of drinking with Soviet soldiers as he crossed Siberia by train in 1973. Elsewhere the paintings act as a means through which Perez examines the great collectors of the last century, such as in the Roman palazzo of Gianni and Marella Agnelli and the Paris home of Jacques Doucet, their walls studded with artworks from their famously impressive collections.

A highlight of the exhibition will be the artist's depiction of the late Francis Bacon's London studio. Perez was drawn to the space not only as a fellow artist but also for Bacon's connection to London itself, the city where he lived for the majority of his career. Perez's painting offers an intimate window into the working space of this luminary of British art.

For the artist this series represents an important return to his formal origins; whilst in recent years he had begun to experiment with a paintbrush, here he returns to his idiosyncratic 'brushless' technique for which he received acclaim during his early career .





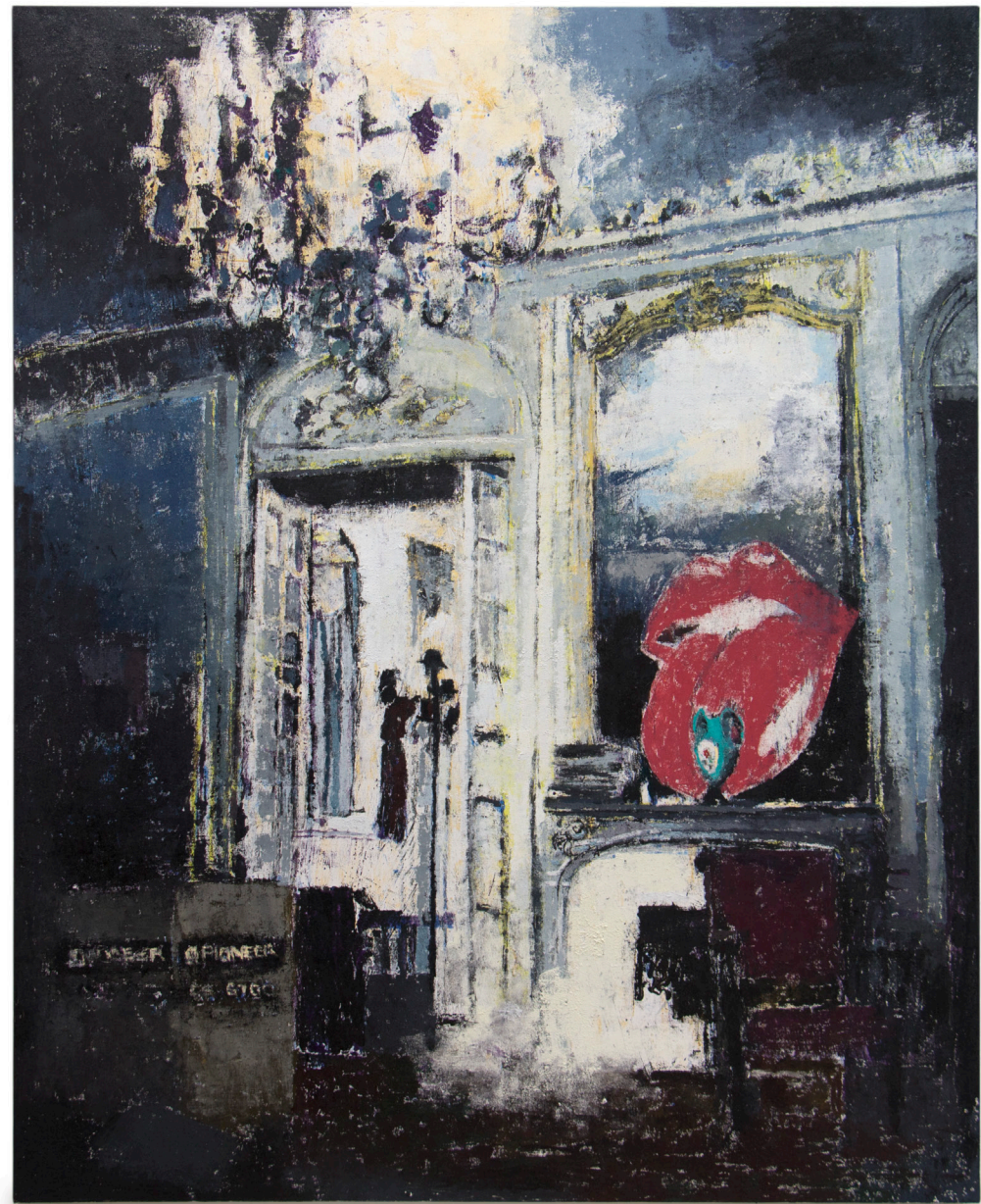
“

I invented my own way of printing my paintings by hand. One color by layer. Oil paint drawn onto the canvas through paper. No need for a brush. Just patience. That way I could have my own voice in a language of painting understood by many.

”



Enoc Perez
7 Reece Mews Kensington, London, Studio of Francis Bacon, 2019
Oil on canvas
152.4 x 152.4 cm. (60 x 60 in.)
PER00002



Enoc Perez
10 Avenue Louise Bordes, Villefranche-sur-Mer, France Villa Nellcôte, Rolling Stones in Exile, 2017
Oil on canvas
254 x 203.2 cm. (100 x 80 in.)
PER00003

“

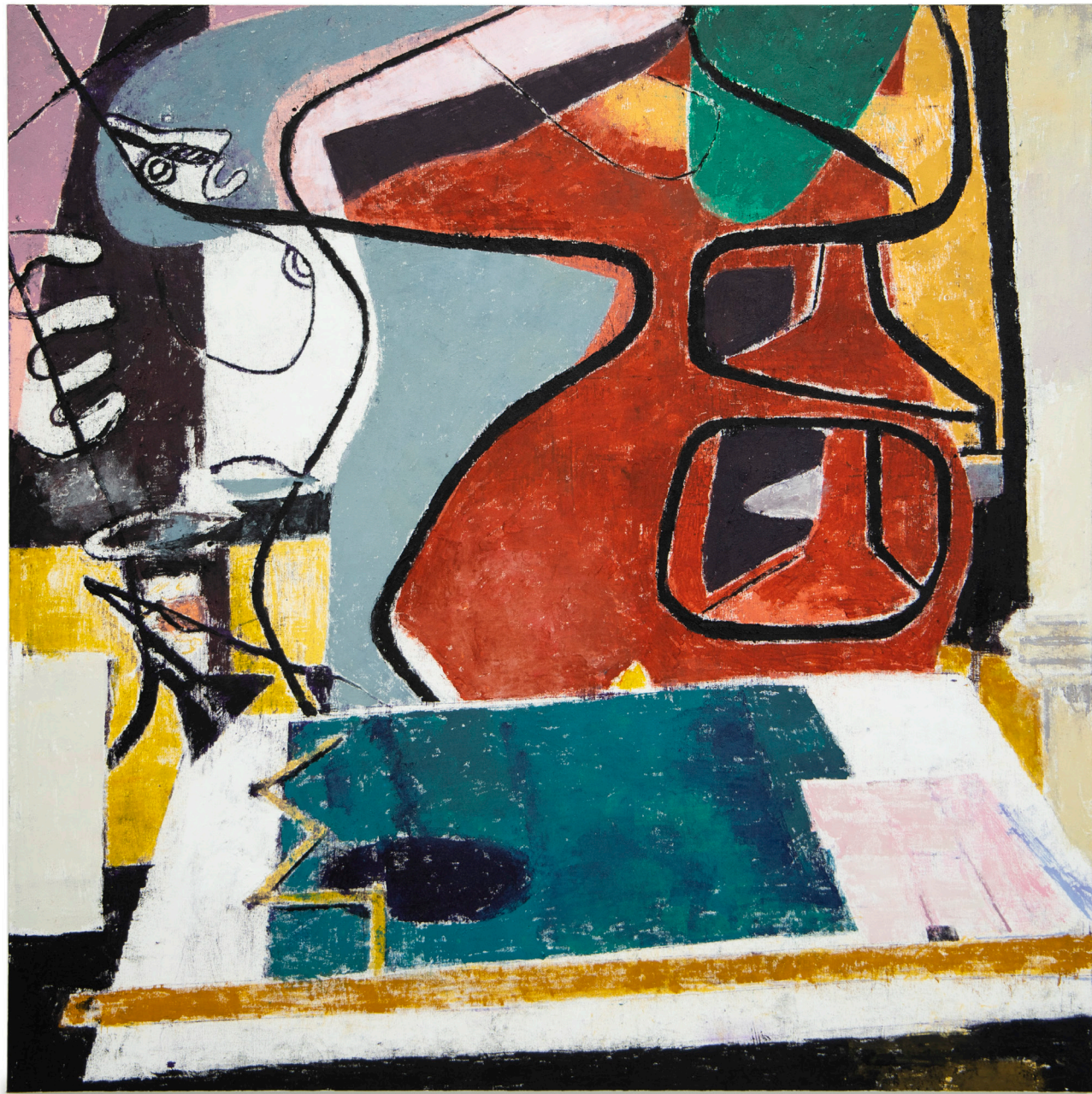
I have been making a lot of paintings of architecture, facades. Very much portraits in my mind. Upon turning fifty, I felt the need to burn my own house, constructively. So now I'm looking inwards. The surprise has been that for these paintings to be convincing I have to paint them with the same attitude and determination that I had as a young painter.

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Enoc Perez
David Bowie's Sleeper Car, Siberia, 1973, 2019
Oil on canvas
152.4 x 152.4 cm. (60 x 60 in.)
PER00004





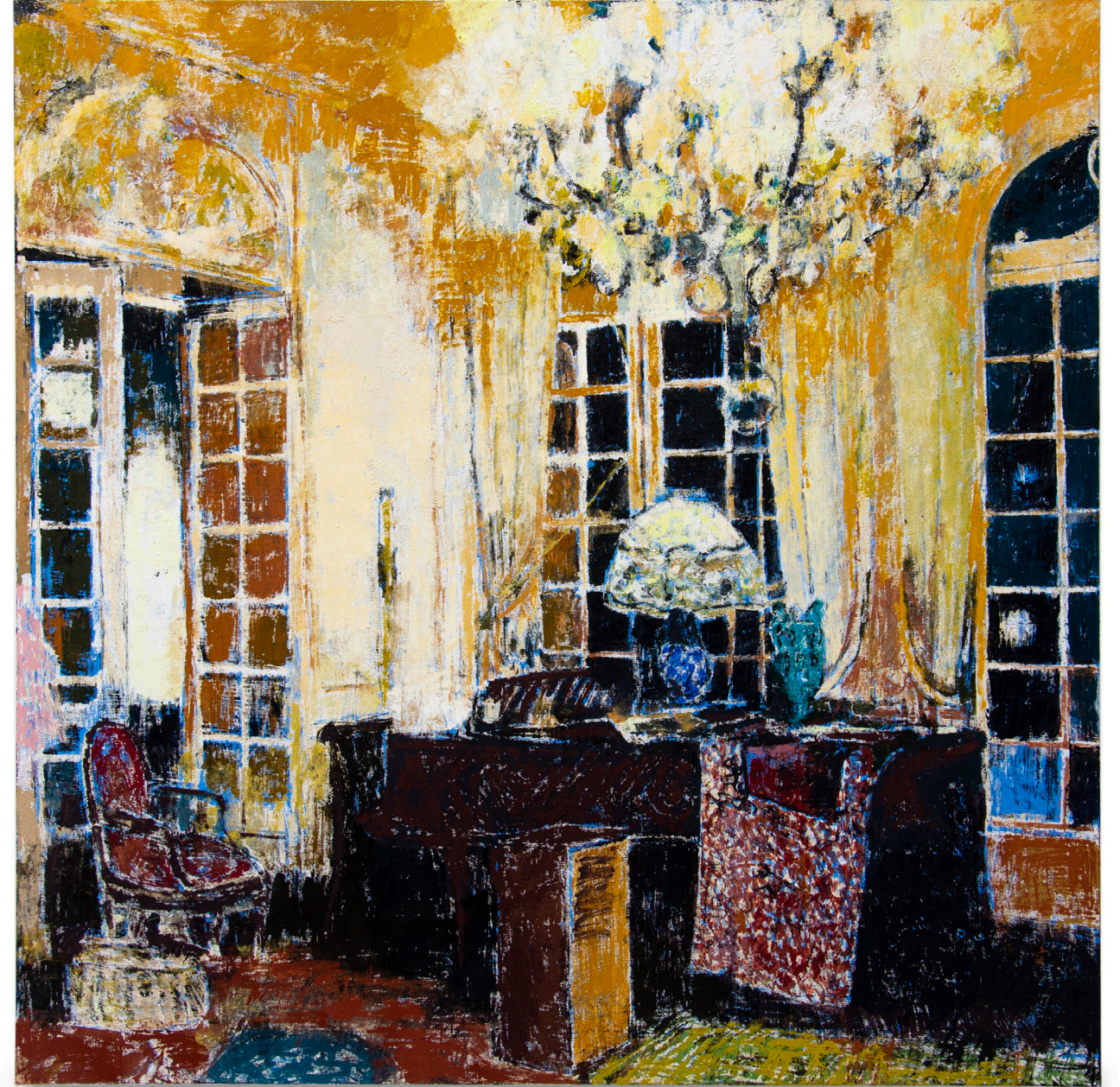
Enoc Perez
Le Corbusier's Drafting Table, 1953, 2019
Oil on canvas
152.4 x 152.4 cm. (60 x 60 in.)
PER00005



Enoc Perez
1340 North State Parkway, Chicago Playboy Mansion, Home of Hugh Hefner, 2019
Oil on canvas
152.4 x 152.4 cm. (60 x 60 in.)
PER00006



Enoc Perez
810 Fifth Avenue, New York, Apartment of Nelson Rockefeller, 2019
Oil on canvas
152.4 x 152.4 cm. (60 x 60 in.)
PER00007



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PER00008



Enoc Perez
3764 Elvis Presley Boulevard, Memphis, TN Graceland, Jungle Room, Residence of Elvis Presley, 2019
Oil on canvas
152.4 x 152.4 cm. (60 x 60 in.)
PER00009





Enoc Perez
Casa Mollino via Giovanni Francesco Napione 2, Turin, 2019
Oil on canvas
152.4 x 152.4 cm. (60 x 60 in.)
PER00010



Enoc Perez
Palazzo Mengarini, via Ventiquattro Maggio Residence of Gianni and Marella Agnelli, Rome, 2019
Oil on canvas
152.4 x 152.4 cm. (60 x 60 in.)
PER00011

“

The images are always of subjects that I love or admire, images that I feel need to be painted. I consider everything that gives me a sense of wonder.

”



Enoc Perez
Apartment of Jerry Hall and Mick Jagger, New York City, 2019
Oil on canvas
152.4 x 152.4 cm. (60 x 60 in.)
PER00013



Enoc Perez
Via Fondazza 36, Bologna Home and Studio of Giorgio Morandi, 2019
Oil on canvas
203.2 x 203.2 cm. (80 x 80 in.)
PER00014





Enoc Perez
Fred Hughes' Factory Office, 22nd East 33rd St, New York City, Study, 2019
Oil on canvas
61 x 45.7 cm. (24 x 18 in.)
PER00016



Enoc Perez
Le Plaisir, Study, 2019
Oil on canvas
61 x 45.7 cm. (24 x 18 in.)
PER00020



Enoc Perez

Fred Hughes' Factory Office 22nd East 33rd St, New York, (close up), 2019

Oil on canvas

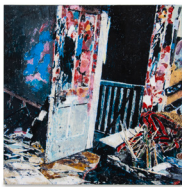
152.4 x 106.7 cm. (60 x 42 in.)

PER00021

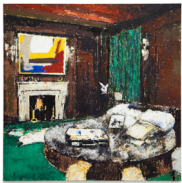


Enoc Perez
Home of Jacques Doucet 33 Rue Saint-James, Neuilly-sur-Seine, 2019
Oil on canvas
203.2 x 152.4 cm. (80 x 60 in.)
PER00022

LIST OF WORKS



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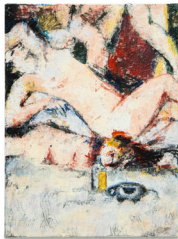
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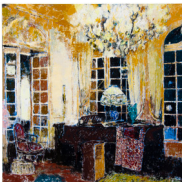
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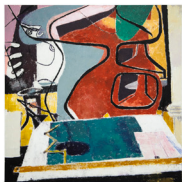
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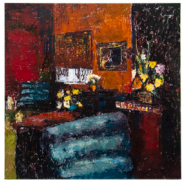
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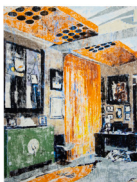
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ENOC PEREZ

Enoc Perez (b.1967, San Juan, Puerto Rico) is a critically acclaimed multidisciplinary artist living and working in Brooklyn, New York. In 1986 the artist moved to New York, where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Pratt Institute and a Master of Fine Arts from Hunter College. Perez's artworks sit in the collections of major museums including The Metropolitan

Museum of Art, New York; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; The British Museum, London; Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven; New York Public Library; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC; and The Museum of Contemporary Art, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Perez has been the subject of recent solo exhibitions at Dallas Contemporary, Dallas in 2018; UTA Artist Space, Los Angeles in 2017; and at the Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, Miami in 2007. He has featured in important group exhibitions internationally including *Dimensions Variables* at Pavillon de l'Arsenal, Paris in 2015; *City Self* at the Museum Of Contemporary Art Chicago, in 2013; *Caribbean: Crossroads of the World*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, Queens Museum of Art, and El Museo del Barrio, New York; *The Undiscovered Country* at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles in 2004; and *Dear Painter, paint me...* at Centre Pompidou, Paris in 2002. In 2020 he will be the subject of a major retrospective at Museo de Arte de Ponce, Puerto Rico.

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