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PROJECTION 006: ISABELLA CUGLIEVAN

The Wallpaper of the Forest

NOVEMBER 10, 2022 - JANUARY 7, 2023

OPENING NOVEMBER 10, 6-8 PM



Isabella Cuglievan, *Wingspan*, 2022, acrylic ink, watercolor, and flashe on canvas stretched over panel
44 x 44 x 1 ½ inches (111.8 x 111.8 x 3.8 cm). Courtesy the Artist and CHART.

“A carpet of mosses does in fact provide this lustrous green light. But, focus the lens on the mossy wallpaper itself and the green blur of the background resolves itself into sharp focus and an entirely new dimension appears. The wallpaper, which seemed at first glance to be of uniform weave, is in fact a complex tapestry, a brocaded surface of intricate pattern. [...] Slowing down and coming close, we see patterns emerge and expand out of the tangled tapestry threads. The threads are simultaneously distinct from the whole, and part of the whole.”

– Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Gathering Moss*

CHART is pleased to present our sixth PROJECTION exhibition, *The Wallpaper of the Forest*, a presentation of five new abstract paintings by Isabella Cuglievan. The exhibition will open on Thursday, November 10th, from 6 - 8 pm, and will be on view through Saturday, January 7th, 2023.

The exhibition, which takes its title from a line by scientist and bryologist Robin Wall Kimmerer, who elegantly examines a common but largely

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overlooked element of the natural world, features Cuglievan's artfully constructed paintings, each inundated with intricate and exacting brushstrokes. Patterns are painstakingly applied by hand, as the artist slowly and delicately builds a web of symmetrical compositions, that are one part disciplined control, and one part kaleidoscopic explosion.

There is something poetic about pattern, and Cuglievan's accretions of color echo both the traditional textiles of her native Peru, as well as weaving practices from around the world. Rather than serving as direct references however, those visual cues act as avenues for aesthetic appreciation – the ways in which combinations of color can express one's relationship to the natural world or turn small, fleeting details into a rich and expansive tapestry. Here, Cuglievan uses the flower, not as a metaphorical symbol, but as a formal element, treating the concept almost as scaffolding for the paintings, through which to explore ways of expanding and shifting the work.

The new works on view, Cuglievan's largest paintings to date, incorporate several returning brushstroke movements – a curly bracket resembling an "open book", a right-turn hook becoming a "fold" – as well as a new movement derived from the growth of plant stems – a "shoot", long gradients that, like the other marks, serve to guide the eye from one part of the painting to the next.

Much like the gradual opening of a blossoming flower bud, the unfolding nature of Cuglievan's process uses symmetry as a means for elaboration. While the individual elements contain a delicate intimacy, it is in the repetition of the pattern, in conjunction with comprehension of the whole, where the true beauty appears. As Kimmerer states in her chapter "Learning to See", "Not until the pattern is repeated, with feedback from the conscious mind, so we know what we are seeing."

Isabella Cuglievan (b. 1993, Peru) lives and works in Lima, Peru. The artist received a BA from Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont. Cuglievan had a solo presentation at Marvin Gardens in Ridgewood, New York (2021), and her work has also been exhibited at The Pit, with Tamara Gonzales, in Palm Springs, California (2022); Sebastian Gladstone, with Dino Capaldi, in Los Angeles, California (2022); KDR305, with Adrienne Rubenstein, in Miami, Florida (2021); among others.

PROJECTION is an initiative alongside our main gallery programming, highlighting diverse voices in intimate presentations. *PROJECTION* features artists in the naissance of their careers or those that have been overlooked, working across a variety of mediums and formats. All *PROJECTION* exhibitions will take place concurrently in two venues: our downstairs gallery space and online in our PROJECTION ROOM.

For more information, please contact us at info@chart-gallery.com

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Isabella Cuglievan: *The Wallpaper of the Forest*



Isabella Cuglievan

Wingspan, 2022

acrylic ink, watercolor, and flashe on canvas stretched over panel

44 x 44 x 1 1/2 inches

(CH965)



Isabella Cuglievan

Reverie, 2022

acrylic ink, watercolor, and flashe on canvas stretched over panel

44 x 44 x 1 1/2 inches

(CH962)



Isabella Cuglievan

Wallflower, 2022

acrylic ink, watercolor, and flashe on canvas stretched over panel

44 x 44 x 1 1/2 inches

(CH964)



Isabella Cuglievan

Shoots, 2022

acrylic ink, watercolor, and flashe on canvas stretched over panel

44 x 44 x 1 1/2 inches

(CH963)



Isabella Cuglievan

Spinning Petrea, 2022

acrylic ink, watercolor, and flashe on canvas stretched over panel

44 x 44 x 1 1/2 inches

111.8 x 111.8 x 3.8 cm

(CH966)