

MARC STRAUS NEW YORK

ANTONIO SANTÍN JANUARY 8 – FEBRUARY 19, 2022

This exhibition marks the 10th anniversary of Antonio Santín's (b. 1978) first solo show at the gallery.

Building on his well-known work of traditional ornamental rug paintings, the Madrid based painter Antonio Santín continues to expand his artistic vocabulary.

The entire canvas becomes dense with colors capturing the rich ornamentation of luxurious carpets. But unlike the actual carpet, which has a flat surface, Santín now layers the oil. Flower buds open up in 3-dimension, and the knots tying the white fringe on the periphery are raised and shaped as real knots. Vertical cords of paint appear woven. The application of paint is as detailed as threads. The shadow-like play derived from the dark glazing applied on top of the weblike surfaces of the paintings makes the viewer step back for an overview only to immediately wish to come closer to see those complex details again.



Apollo, 2021
Oil on canvas
62.9 x 78.7 in (160 x 200 cm)



Detail image of *Apollo*

The triumph of these paintings is not simply the result of such bravura paint application. The paintings have warmth and individuality. While he begins with a borrowed high-quality rug, in the end the design, the layering, the choices of texture and colors are entirely his own. It's this inventiveness that easily separates the work from photo-realism. The resulting paintings are joyful, gorgeous and arresting, art that constantly challenges and renews.

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Apollo features symmetrical patterning, often found in Islamic decorative arts, with a suggestion of peacock feathers. *Alboroto* also seems to have an overall symmetry but a close look at the diamond patterning upends that notion. Here, the appearance of such complicated folds brings his work to new heights. In *Muralla*, the cords of paint appear as weavings which become further energized by the apparent folds in the rug.



Muralla, 2021
Oil on canvas
70.9 x 78.7 in (180 x 200 cm)



Detail image of *Muralla*

Antonio Santín's work is currently on view at the Knoxville Museum of Art, TN. He exhibited a series of paintings at the Nassau County Museum of Art, NY in 2019. In December 2021, his work was included at the Shara Art Festival in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. His work was featured in a solo exhibition at Sharjah Art Museum, UAE in 2016, and is in numerous private collections internationally.

An opening reception will be held Saturday, January 8th, from 4-8 PM at the gallery. The artist will be present at the opening.

Proof of vaccination and masks are required upon entering the gallery.