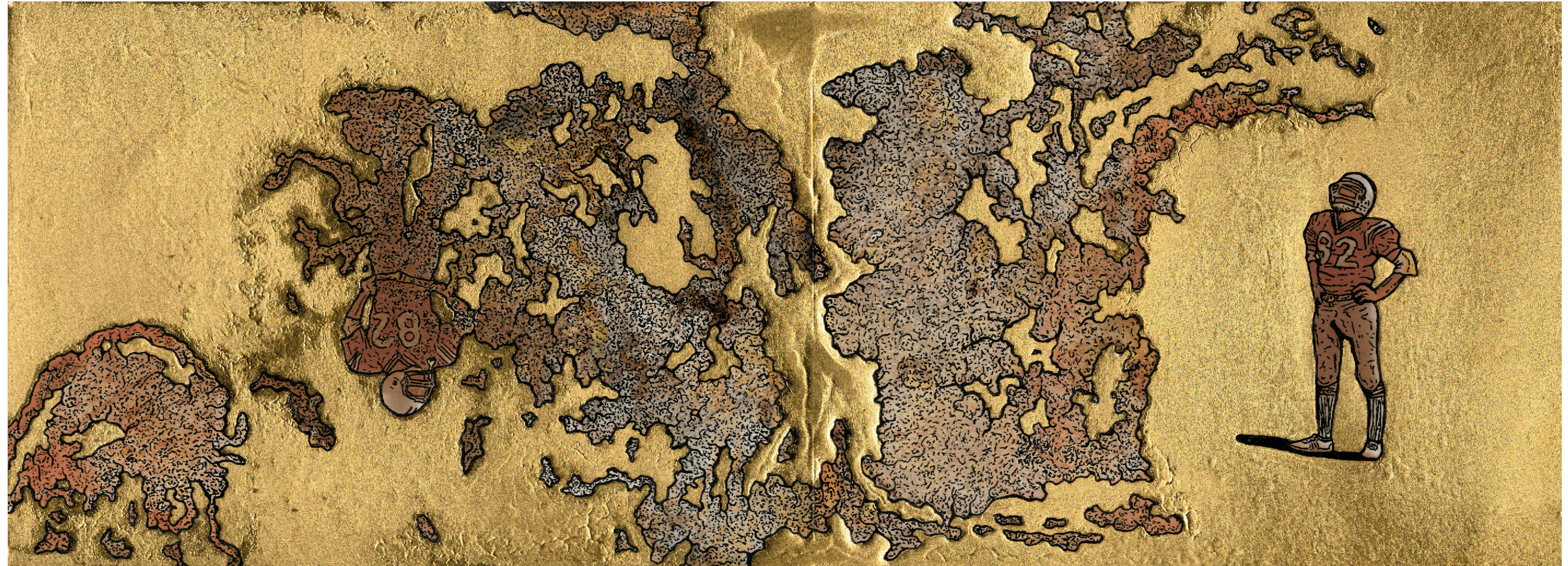


OSCAR



BRUM

2 0 2 3

INDEX

Painting	2
Photographic intervention	6
Sculpture	10
Other projects	13
Selected events & awards	16
About the artist	17
Contact	18

P A I N T I N G

Oscar's deep interest in the fundamentals of the human condition is explored and addressed by his interpretation of several ideas on the fields of philosophy, astronomy, physics and spirituality.

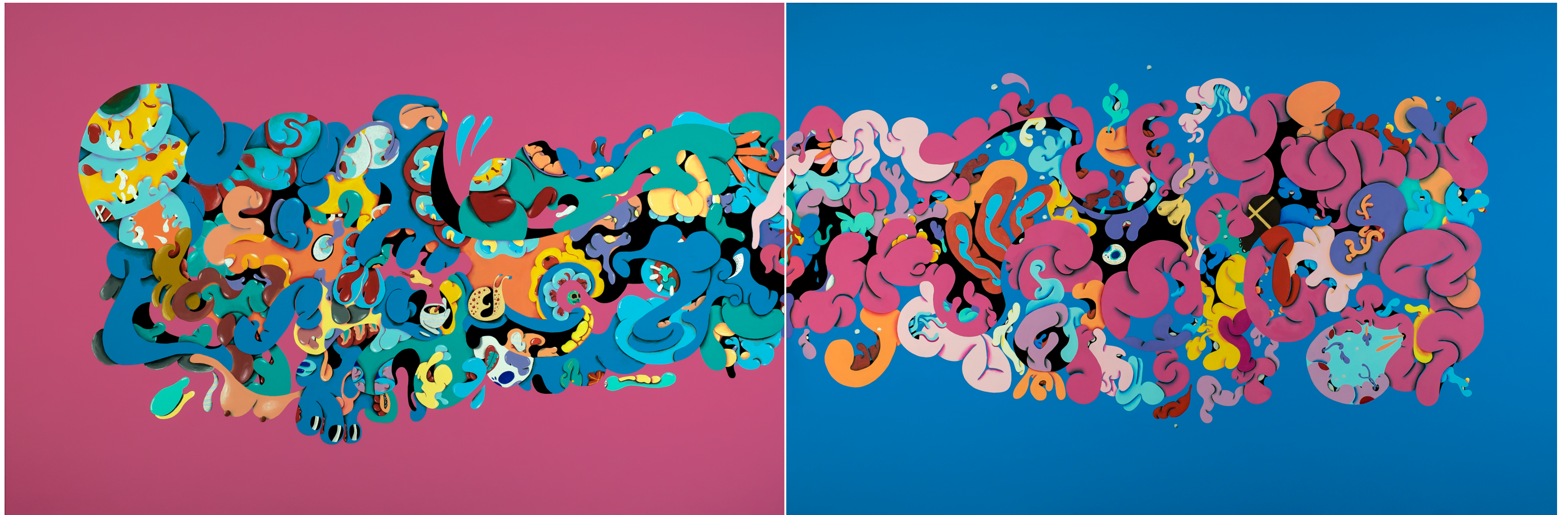
Such ideas range from the nature of consciousness and its universality, the dual and complementary sides of physical and emotional experience, the multidimensional nature of nature, the place of human beings, both individually and collectively as the part of the universe that thinks and contemplates itself, amongst others.

An explosion of carefully planned conversations between color and form bring the canvases to life, building dynamic compositions where time seems to have frozen right at the climax of every scene.

Expressive but yet formless (in some cases creature-like) figures interact with each other in a display of action and movement.

The artist's aim is to provide visual elements that are evocative but yet remain open to personal interpretation in order to create a more intimate dialogue between the viewer and the work of art, evoking the Freudian idea that each mind finds itself reflected in the world it experiences around it.

The sources of inspiration for Oscar's work are very vast, but one that is pivotal to his research is the symbolism and significance of the heart. Thought by many mesoamerican cultures to be the reservoir of our very essence and the most sacred element of our existence.



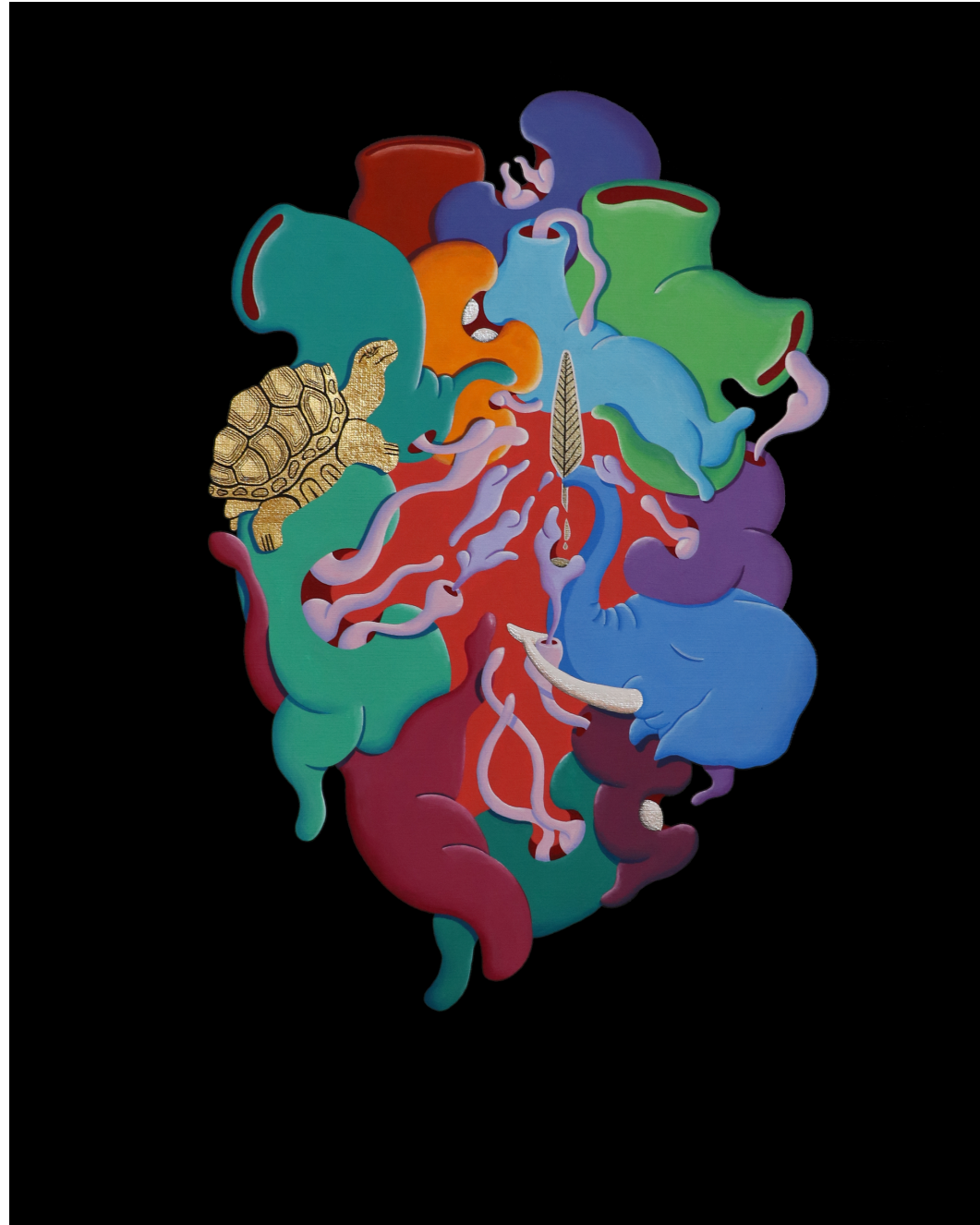
Quintessence of a multi-dimensional heart.

(From the series "Sacred duty of sacrifice")

Acrylic on linen (2 panels).

240 x 80 cm

2019



1.



2.



3.

HEART PORTRAITS

This series aims to reinterpret portraiture and the physically descriptive nature of the way subjects are generally depicted.

The artist has approached his portraits not by painting his subject's faces, but instead he has ventured into a metaphysical realm to find and gather elements with which he has constructed fantastic representations of their hearts.

Such elements are taken from shared experiences between the artist and the subjects, who so far are some of the closest and most important people to him.

These elements are then transformed into symbols of great sentimental significance, while at the same time they acquire a much deeper universal meaning when the spectator internalizes and incorporates them into his/her own personal experience. Thus transforming individuality into collectiveness,

1. Those who know don't say, those who say don't know.
2. Divine light & the sacred guiding fire.
3. The purest of tears.*

Acrylic & 24k. gold leaf on linen
50 x 40 cm.
2018 - 2020

**Private collection (Milan, Italy)*

PHOTO – INTERVENTION

This project started after the artist found his late grandfather's photo album collection. It contained photographs as old as the 1940's up to the 1990's. This happened when the basement they were kept at got flooded and the photos were “ruined” by water, humidity and a very particular phenomenon that would inspire him to expand the boundaries of his artistic production.

Oscar has used paint, ink, 24k gold leaf, and the naturally occurring fungi caused by the water and humidity to which the photos were exposed, as well as damages caused by other factors, to reshape the context of the subjects depicted on them, redefining their existence in a contemporary world.

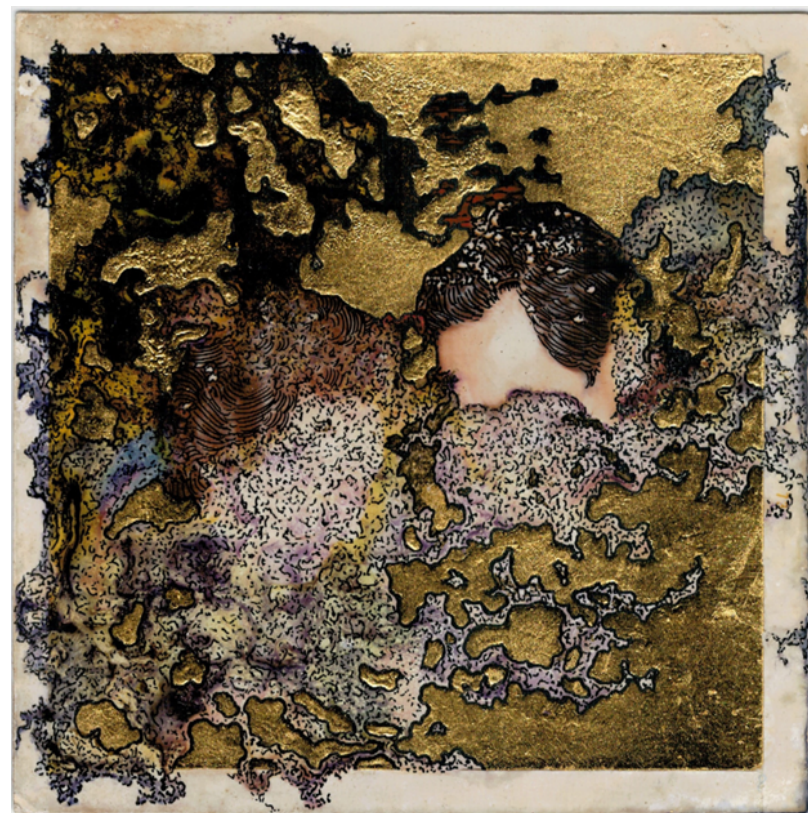
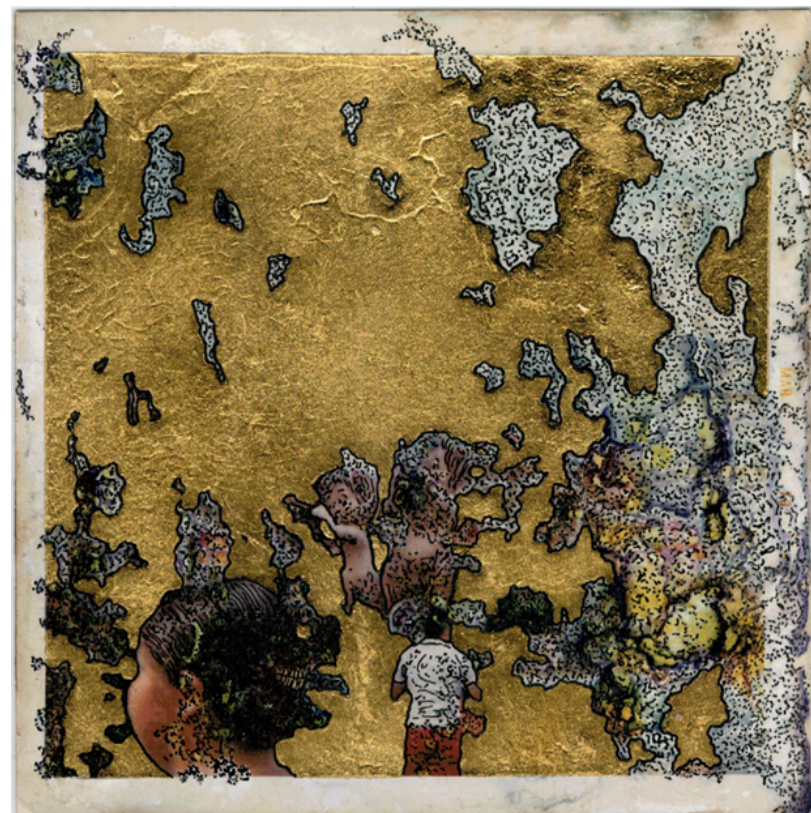
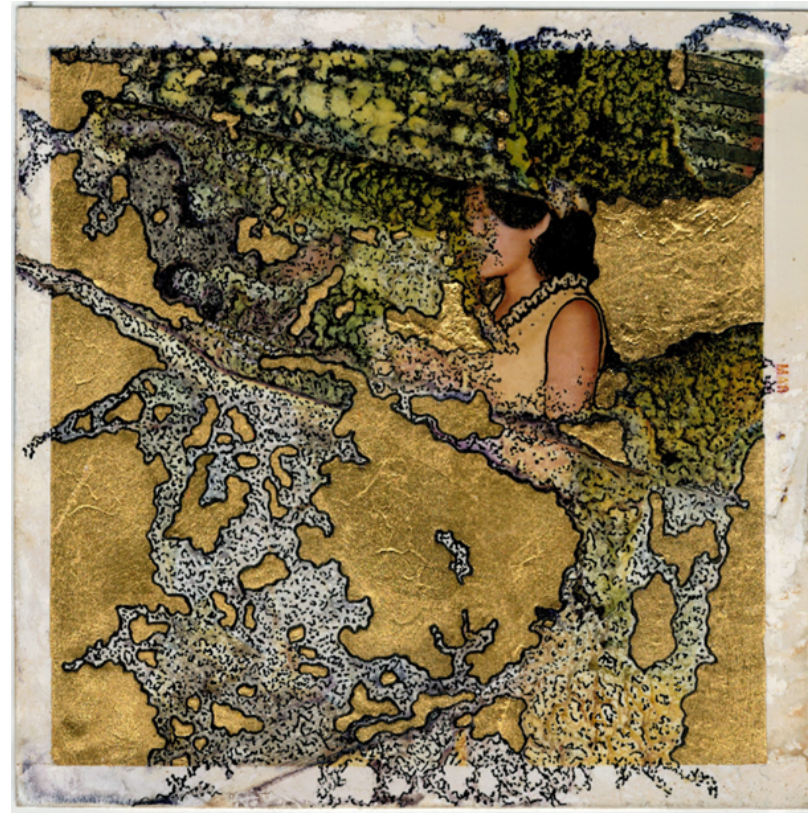
Fungi feeds from dead and decaying materials, giving instead place for new life to emerge, transforming death into the precursor of the future. Just like fungi transforms physical matter, this project is an attempt to retell the original stories of these photos, whose absolute truth has died with the artist's grandfather, but their essence and great value have become immortal through the his reinterpretation.

Oscar has created different mini series from this collection, exploring some of his personal interests like the infinite cycle of regeneration and rebirth that, he states, is the balance-giving force of ours and all realities. This exploration engulfs scientific and spiritual subjects from which Oscar's fascination feeds, leading forward his creative spirit.

Two of the most important physical elements of the pieces are fungi and gold. The first one as the destructive force that is essential for existence; and the second one, the most sacred of elements, which purifies and gives new life.

This project's conceptual base is strongly influenced by the Japanese philosophy of Wabi-Sabi, which the artist has interpreted through his own perspective. We are all ephemeral and ever-changing, like the fungi damaged photographs, but our essence, our light, just as gold, transcends time.

Beliefs of rebirth and reincarnation have been part of humanity since the beginning of time and have shaped entire civilizations. These spiritual beliefs have also become an important source of inspiration and play a defining role on how the artist approaches the symbolic construction of his pieces.



Timelessness.
(XXII-XXVIII)

24k Gold leaf, ink & fungi on
damaged photographs (1970's).

9 x 9 cm (ea.)

2022

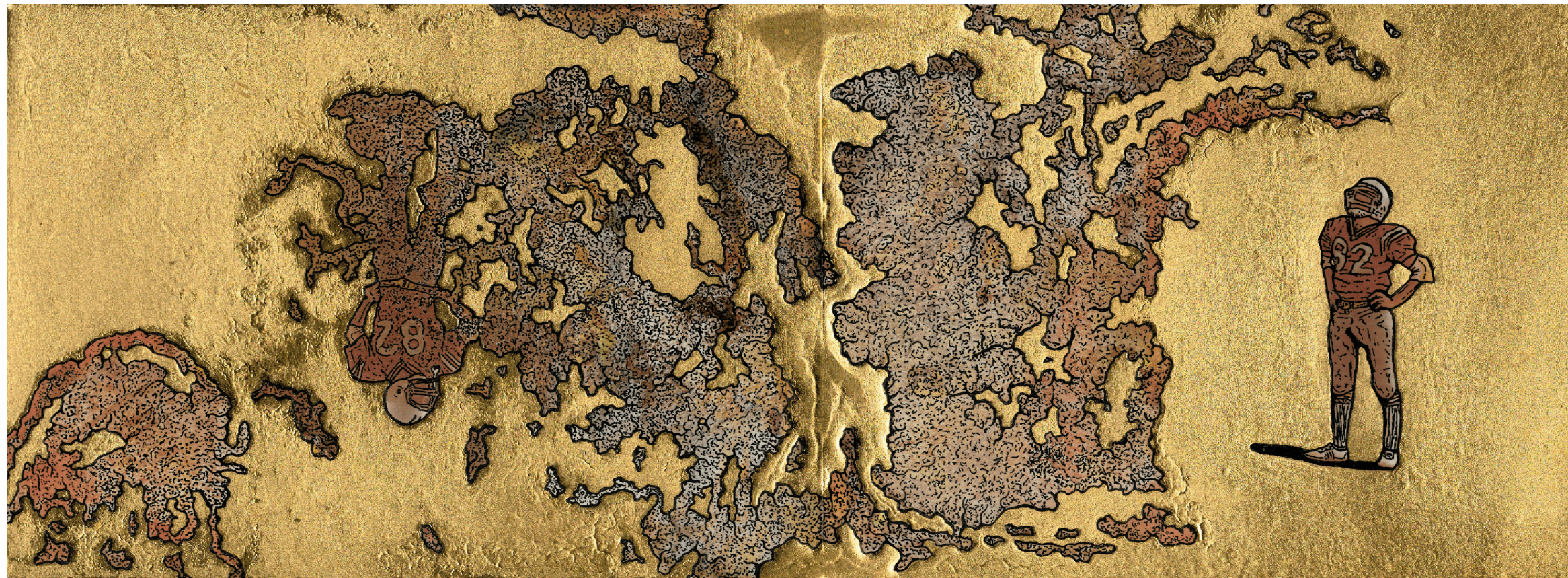


Boat ride during a neutron star collision pt. II.

24k Gold leaf, ink, watercolor & fungi on
damaged photograph collage (1970's).

20 x 55 cm.

2020



1.

- 1. Parallel states of consciousness.
- 2. Deconstruction of the mind pt. II.

24k Gold leaf, ink & fungi on damaged photographs (1970's).

1: 9.2 x 24 cm. 2: 11.5 x 8 cm.

2021



2.

SCULPTURE

Oscar approaches tridimensionality in his work by following his research on the symbolism of the heart and other subjects, using some traditional techniques like clay modelling and lost wax, but also exploring new methods like rock carving with modern mechanical tools.

Some of his pieces resemble archeological finds from the Aztec culture, idols and stylized representations of nature carved on volcanic rock that often served ritual and religious purposes. Which the artist has recently used as a central part of his performance work.

Others are instead constructed on specific conceptual bases depending on the idea addressed in each case. Just as in his painting work, his sculptures seem to be alive and move. The game of light on the curves and textures of some pieces creates a powerful effect on the viewer if he or she takes the time to observe not only their faces reflected on the shiny material, but to dive deep inside oneself and reach for that sacred personal space within us all.

The artist wants his pieces to be used as instruments of interiorization, reflection, learning, and growth.



Yo (Me)

Carved volcanic rock.
H.17 cm. D. 19 cm.
2021

Twisting of the heart talks about the struggle of human beings, about a fight within ourselves, of temptation and power of will.

One can almost hear the laughs and screams emerging from this piece and observe how the sculpture changes its own form. Just like our hearts are constantly being shaped, not only by our own decisions and thoughts, but also by those of others.

In Náhuatl language, spoken by many cultural groups in the pre-hispanic Mexico, the term "*twisting of the heart*" is understood as corruption and "twisted heart" as a dishonorable person. This is a reference to Mexico's decade-long issue and the huge damage it causes to its society .

The pure black marble base alludes to one of the country's most valuable and abundant resources, oil. It has always been and remains today at the very center of that devastating cancer that cripples the country called corruption.

Twisting of the heart.

Nickel-plated bronze on pure black marble base

H. 50 cm. x D. 25 cm.

2019



OTHER PROJECTS

Limited edition collection. Mezcal Brije x Oscar Brum
Acrylic & 24k gold leaf / Photograph, 24k gold leaf
& ink, on mezcal bottle.
Collection of 16 unique pieces.
H. 32 cm. x D. 6 cm (ea).
2022





De tripas corazón.

Pompeii, Italy.

As part of Pompeii Street Festival.

Spray paint on wall.

7 x 18 m.

2022



Heart self-portrait.

Mexico City, MX.

Spray paint on wall.

1.5 x 1 m.

2023



PERFORMANCE

Oscar ventured into performance during his most recent solo show in November 2022. "Metaphysical realm of the soul" started with a ceremony inspired by self-sacrifice religious practices in ancient and contemporary Mexico.

The artist incorporated elements used by mayan chamans in various ceremonies he was part of while making a research on such practices in the state of Yucatan.



Fire as a cleansing and life giving force, flowers as a symbol of the ephemeral yet resilient nature of life. A heart shaped sculpture carved from volcanic rock sits at the center of the scene, while the artist performs a self-sacrifice, pinching his fingers and spilling blood on the sculpture, then raising it to the sky and offering his most precious possessions, his vital liquid and his heart, transported back to the source through the smoke of palo santo.

Mayan and Nahua traditions regard self-sacrifice as a direct way to get in contact with the sacred, to transcend our reality.

[Watch Video](#)

SELECTED EVENTS & AWARDS

2023

MIA Fair.
Photography Art Fair
(Sold out +)
Milan, Italy.

(un)FAIR
Contemporary Art Fair.
Milan, Italy.

Looking for eARTh.
Collective exhibition.
Rome, Italy.

2022

Metaphysical realm of the soul.
Spazio arte Tolomeo Gallery.
Solo exhibition.
Milan, Italy

Live painting on Serie A football.
Integration heroes match.
San Siro stadium. Milan, Italy.

Live painting series.
Permanent solo exhibition.
Humo Tulum. Tulum, Mexico.

BULGARI Accessori x Comonext Award
Como, Italy.

2021 - 2019

New Post-photography Award.
MIA Photo Fair.
Milan, Italy

Paratissima Talents Award
Paratissima Art Fair.
Turin, Italy.

Duomo 21
Collective exhibition.
Terrazza Duomo. Milan, Italy

Paratissima Art Fair.
Contemporary Art Fair.
(Sold out)
Turin, Italy.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Oscar Brum was born in Mexico and is based between Mexico City and Milan. To talk about his work is to dive into a mixture of influences from a millenary cultural heritage and his personal inquiries on fields such as astronomy, physics, spirituality, amongst others. He seeks to create a dialogue between ancient symbolisms and contemporary dogmas exploring the relation between the artwork and the spectator as a reciprocal interaction form.

Death and its essential role in existence is an important pillar in his artistic research, as he explores the deep cosmovision of the mesoamerican cultures of Mexico and Latin America.

Having started as a self-taught artist has pushed him

to develop his own understanding of artistic production and to experiment with non-traditional methods, incorporating natural elements such as fungi, water, light, temperature, gold, and exploiting their effects on his pieces, turning them into vivid interpretations of what he defines as the “Great Universal Mysteries”.

Oscar has recently started studies in painting, sculpture and other techniques at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera in Milan. He has participated in various solo and collective exhibitions since 2015 in galleries, libraries, fairs, universities, and alternative spaces. He has received several awards, such as “Best Artist” at the 15th edition of Paratissima Contemporary Art Fair in Turin, and the New Post Photography ? Award by the 10th edition of MIA Photo Fair in Milan.

His latest exhibition at the 12th edition of MIA Fair was sold out on the first few hours on the first day, and sold out two times more during the rest of the fair.

CONTACT

 oscarbrum

www.oscarbrum.com

