

# jordi alcaraz

## from one drawing another

08.09 - 15.10.2022

This exhibition of 15 recent works by Jordi Alcaraz (Calella, 1963) at Mayoral Paris offers a privileged insight into the Catalan artist's unique visual language which combines visual poetry and conceptual ideas. The group of works brought together for « D'un dessin l'autre » (*From One Drawing Another*) are the result of a hybrid multidisciplinary practice – including sculpture and painting – through which Alcaraz uses innovative, often industrial, materials to explore the limits of drawing in the traditional sense. His point of departure often rests upon philosophical themes such as time, language, and volume.

The power of Alcaraz's work lies in its seemingly impenetrable nature, which piques our curiosity and demands our attention. Part of a long artistic tradition, Alcaraz's practice echoes his culture and belies a multiplicity of influences. He is particularly interested in the classical genres of portrait, landscape and still life, which he introduces into his work from the point of conception and then both reveals and conceals through his poetic



*Autoretrat (Self Portrait)*  
(2022)  
20 × 20 × 37 cm

titles and compositions. Indeed, Alcaraz foregrounds a fusion of contradictory elements, alternating between light and darkness, robustness and fragility, unveiling and obscuring. The resultant body of work has a certain ethereality, highlighting the changing nature of our environment and almost forcing us to establish a metaphorical relationship with the world around us.

As a multidisciplinary artist (he is in equal parts a painter, sculptor, potter, draughtsman and engraver), Jordi Alcaraz's dialogue with his medium – be it glass, pigment, stone, ceramic or iron – lies at the heart of his practice. In the work *Autoretrat (Self Portrait)* (2022), the ancestral practice of ceramics lets him to conceive a piece that is both metaphorically and literally suspended in time and space; on the verge of a precipice. In *La nit i el dia (Night and*

### The artist

Jordi Alcaraz (Calella, 1963) is a Catalan painter and sculptor. He has had numerous solo and group exhibitions worldwide (including Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain, Canada and Switzerland). The artist draws an invisible line between visual poetry and conceptual projection, and proposes an unprecedented, surprising, and metaphorical relationship with the world. A multidisciplinary hybridization in which Alcaraz's discourse, which comes from the classical artistic tradition, meditates on volume, language and time through the use of certain materials such as water, glass, mirror, pigment, book and stone.



*La nit i el dia (Night and Day)*  
(2022)  
102 × 85 cm

## MAYORAL

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*Day* (2022), tradition and modernity come together in his use of methacrylate and wire combined with the practice of drawing on paper with a lithographic crayon. The dark black element suspended from a thin wire is bulging and flattened against the bottom of the frame, appearing at once so heavy that it is about to drop and so light that it is swaying like a pendulum in the wind.



*Dibuixos estesos (I) [Hanging Drawings (I)]*  
(2022)  
105 x 132 cm

Chromatically, Alcaraz's production draws its expressiveness from an almost exclusive use of black and white. Light plays a key role; its reflection on and through his materials favours the successive formation of shadows, contrasts and reflections that brings a liveliness to the work, in perpetual variation. Another particularly innovative element in his work is the special treatment he gives to the frame. The latter is no longer seen as a secondary and passive component, but is reinterpreted as an essential element, inherent in the work. The artist creates his own frames and integrates them into the composition, establishing a dialogue

between the container and the content, in a singular relationship of reciprocity.

The artist never seeks to conceal the genesis of the creative act; on the contrary, he preserves its vestiges at the heart of his work, revealing its entrails characterized by the presence of torn cardboard, dripping paint, screws and wires crossing the mount. The gestation of the work and the performative act from which his final creation stems are inseparable from its result. His work can thus be situated on the cusp of various twentieth-century artistic trends,

including Arte Povera, Abstract Expressionism and Informal Art, while at the same time displaying an innovative contemporaneity and not confining itself to any predefined artistic genre.

Despite various exhibitions in Europe and North America, Alcaraz's work has never been the subject of a solo show in Paris and this exhibition is an unprecedented opportunity to discover his universe.



*Formes d'escriure (Forms of Writing)*  
(2022)  
84 x 101.5 cm

## Mayoral

Mayoral, founded in 1989, is an art gallery located in Barcelona and Paris. Specialized in Post-War and Contemporary Art, promoting artists such as Tàpies, Millares, Saura, Zóbel, Francés and Chordà, alongside works by key twentieth-century avant-garde artists such as Miró and Picasso, and the best of today's generation with names such as Macarrón, Oliver and Pratts. The gallery develops projects that are rigorously curated and grow out of an exhaustive process of research. In recent years, Mayoral has presented projects such as "Miró's Studio," and retrospectives dedicated to Millares, Tàpies, Saura and Chordà, as well as dialogues between artists such as Miró/Zao Wou-Ki and Francés/Vieira da Silva.

The gallery participates in arts fairs such as Art|Basel Miami Beach, Art|Basel Hong Kong, TEFAF Maastricht, TEFAF New York, Art Cologne, Art Paris and ARCOmadrid.

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