

An abstract artwork featuring layered, textured panels of various colors including blue, green, yellow, red, white, and purple. The panels are arranged in a complex, overlapping pattern, creating a sense of depth and movement. The colors are vibrant and the textures vary, suggesting different materials or techniques used in the piece.

SPERONE WESTWATER

KEVIN UMAÑA

ADAA | The Art Show

Park Avenue Armory, Booth D20

29 October – 2 November 2024

Sperone Westwater is pleased to present a solo by Kevin Umaña featuring his series of “hybrid paintings,” which merge glazed ceramics with painting on canvas. This latest body of work deepens Umaña’s exploration of personal history, cultural identity and the sacred, while introducing new visual motifs inspired by nature.

His geometric abstractions are influenced by Indigenous and pre-Columbian textile traditions alongside Christian references such as stained glass, crosses and illuminations, reflecting the complex cultural landscape of Latin America. Umaña also draws color and pattern from the natural world, specifically birds. “Birds have been a topic that has come up several times recently,” explains the artist. “There, it seemed, was abundance—abundance of color, abundance of texture. For centuries, birds have been considered spiritual messengers from the universe or a higher spiritual being. Their messages bring clarity and guidance to those who seek it.”

Umaña’s choice of materials further reinforces his connection to the earth, using unconventional natural elements such as gem minerals, sawdust and clay. The personal scale of his works invites viewers to get close, immersing themselves in the varied surfaces and forms.

From a distance, these hybrid paintings may appear clean and structured, but upon further inspection, they reveal raw, textural and gestural qualities. Their intimate size also draws from the historic tradition of devotional objects, which were small enough for individuals to carry with them, underscoring the artist’s emphasis on a personal relationship to the sacred that transcends specific belief systems.



Tree Reflections Sinking to the Horizon, 2024
acrylic, oils, vinyl paint, flock, aventurine, sand,
colored pencil, ink, gouache and ceramics on canvas
24 x 18 1/2 x 2 inches (61 x 47 x 5,1 cm)
SW 24102
\$ 12,000





Ribcage as Delicate as Stained Glass, 2024
acrylic, oils, vinyl paint, flock, sand, colored pencil,
ink, and ceramics on canvas
24 x 18 1/2 x 2 inches (61 x 47 x 5,1 cm)
SW 24111
\$ 12,000



Sitting in a Space During Dusk, 2024
acrylic, oils, vinyl paint, flock, aventurine, sand,
colored pencil, ink, and ceramics on canvas
16 1/2 x 13 1/2 x 1 1/2 inches (41,9 x 34,3 x 3,8 cm)
SW 24112
\$ 8,000





Passionate Tiny Moves, 2024
acrylic, oils, vinyl paint, flock, aventurine, sand,
colored pencil, ink, and ceramics on canvas
16 x 12 x 1 1/2 inches (40,6 x 30,5 x 3,8 cm)
SW 24113
\$ 8,000





Duality in Paired Oppositions, 2024
acrylic, oil, ink, salt, sand, resin, crushed aventurine,
ceramics on canvas
20 x 16 x 1 3/4 inches (50,8 x 40,6 x 4,5 cm)
SW 24175
\$ 10,000





Desert Plants Between the Time of 5 to 7, 2023
acrylic, oil, vinyl paint, flock, glass beads, sand,
gouache, clear tar, colored pencils, and ceramics on
canvas
24 x 18 x 2 inches (61 x 47 x 5,1 cm)
SW 24181
\$ 12,000



Soft White, Stucco Sunsets, 2024
acrylic, oil, vinyl paint, flock, sand, stucco, and
ceramics on canvas
20 x 16 x 3 1/4 inches (50,8 x 40,6 x 8,3 cm)
SW 24293
\$ 10,000





The Little Swan Hiding on Their Mother's Back, 2024
acrylic, oil, vinyl paint, flock, sand, stucco, and
ceramics on canvas
20 x 16 x 3 1/4 inches (50,8 x 40,6 x 8,3 cm)
SW 24295
\$ 10,000





Lava is About the Core, 2024
acrylic, oil, vinyl paint, flock, sand, stucco, and
ceramics on canvas
20 x 16 x 3 1/4 inches (50,8 x 40,6 x 8,3 cm)
SW 24296
\$ 10,000





*As the Misty Rain Subsides, The Mourning Dove
Heralds the Spring, 2024*

acrylic, oil, vinyl paint, flock, ink, sand, marble
dust, salt, resin, ceramics on canvas

24 x 18 1/2 x 2 3/4 inches (61 x 47 x 7 cm)

SW 24300

\$ 12,000





Switch Out the Burgee, 2024
acrylic, oil, vinyl paint, flock, ink, sand, marble dust, salt, resin,
ceramics on canvas
24 x 18 1/2 x 2 3/4 inches (61 x 47 x 7 cm)
SW 24302
\$ 12,000





Bursting Claw of Optimism, 2024
acrylic, oil, vinyl paint, flock, ink, sand, marble
dust, salt, resin, ceramics on canvas
24 x 18 1/2 x 2 3/4 inches (61 x 47 x 7 cm)
SW 24301
\$ 12,000



Kevin Umaña

Kevin Umaña was born in 1989 and grew up in El Salvador and Los Angeles. He received a BFA from San Francisco State University in 2014 and lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. He has completed residencies at the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation (2024); Sharpe-Walentas Studio Program (2023-24); Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts, Helena, MT (2023); The Center for Book Arts, New York (2019); Plop Residency, London, England (2018); and SIM Residency, Reykjavik, Iceland (2018). His work was featured in “Pattern Recognition,” curated by Amy Lincoln at Sperone Westwater in 2022. Institutions owning his work include The United Nations Art Collection, New York; Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY; Munson, Utica, NY; Fidelity Mutual Funds Collection; Center for Book Arts Library, New York; and The Marin Museum of Contemporary Art, Novato, CA.