

Photosynthesis

Luis Olaso | 13 February – 9 March 2026



Luis Olaso

Composition for a field of red poppies, 2025
Oil, acrylic, oil bar, and oil pastel on canvas
100 x 100 cm



Luis Olaso

Composition for a black green background flowers, 2025
Oil, acrylic, oil bar, and oil pastel on canvas
100 x 100 cm

JD Malat Gallery Dubai is pleased to present *Photosynthesis*, a new body of work by the Spanish artist Luis Olaso, marking a pivotal moment in his practice. Created entirely in his new studio in Cádiz, southern Spain, this series reflects a geographical and emotional shift where environment, sensation, and inner life converge on the canvas.

Surrounded by olive, almond, and orange trees, Olaso's new studio opens directly onto the landscape, allowing nature to enter physically and psychologically. Light, colour, smell, and sound seep into the space and into the works themselves. Rather than depicting this environment directly, Olaso absorbs it, allowing it to act as a catalyst for emotion, intuition, and subconscious response.

Olaso's paintings grow from a conversation between instinct and reflection, where every brushstroke, colour, and form is charged with feeling. Shapes emerge and fade, sometimes hinting at leaves, branches, or other natural forms, yet never becoming literal images; what remains is their essence, their movement, and the emotions they carry. Each canvas functions as a subtle self-portrait, a mirror of a specific internal moment, capturing solitude, thought, and emotion without words. As Olaso explains, "Even when I work with plants, flowers, or everyday elements, I am not aiming for literal representation; they are a vehicle to express abstract metaphors of myself and the moment I am living while creating the work". His approach is grounded in gestural painting, engaging the legacy of artists such as Willem de Kooning and Joan

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Mitchell through an emphasis on movement, density, and the physical intelligence of paint, and is further shaped by Spanish artists he grew up encountering, including Antonio Saura, Antoni Tàpies, and Manolo Millares. He also acknowledges the quieter influence of the San Francisco Bay Area Figurative Movement, particularly Nathan Oliveira and Richard Diebenkorn, where abstraction and figuration intersect through mood, memory, and atmosphere.

In *Photosynthesis*, Olaso achieves a delicate balance between freedom and contemplation, gesture and reflection. Influenced in part by his previous visit to JD Malat Gallery Dubai, where the clarity and expansiveness of the gallery's light left a lasting impression, the paintings invite a quiet pause, offering a space where colour, form, and emotion converge.

Luis Olaso (b. 1986, Spain) is a Spanish contemporary artist living and working in Bilbao whose paintings explore emotion, memory, and the inner self. His work merges abstraction with traces of organic and human forms, creating expressive, psychologically resonant compositions. Through improvisational brushwork and reflective observation, each painting functions as a subtle self-portrait of the artist's inner life.

EXHIBITION DETAILS:

Dates: 13 February- 9 March 2026

Location: JD MALAT GALLERY DUBAI

Act 2 Tower, Ground Floor

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Blvd 13A

Downtown, Dubai - United Arab Emirates

Public Hours: Monday - Sunday | 10:00AM - 10:00PM

For press inquiries, images, or to schedule an interview with the founder and curator Jean-David Malat in Dubai, kindly contact:

JD Malat Gallery Dubai

Press Office

Email: press@jdmalat.com

Phone: +971 (0)4 257 0076



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