

For the fifth edition of the ongoing exhibition programme dedicated to Nature, Abreu Advogados, in partnership with Carpe Diem Arte e Pesquisa, presents a series of works by the artist Urbano.

Urbano

Laura Falé (LF): The works presented at Abreu Advogados, “As Flores e as Cinzas” are a series that were initiated with a big fire, a moment of destruction.

Urban (U): A moment of terrible and unacceptable destruction, but one that is a metaphor not only for my work but also for life itself.

LF: What fire or destruction is this?

U: This is not a particular fire, but everyone who destroys thousands of hectares of forest on our planet each year. These works start from the idea of fire and ashes: to burn, to destroy and to regenerate. The regeneration process takes us from ashes to color, to the exuberance that I tried to represent using a reduced palette of pink and yellow, thus referring to the explosion of colors that takes place in spring and as a promise of hope.

LF: Is destruction an important part of what you do?

U: This is how many of my works are born. The work starts inside my head and I usually record it afterwards in notebooks. I draw to understand the shape of things and in that sense my drawings are a sort of memory. To draw not to forget myself. This is what inspiration is: having an idea, knowing what I want to execute but then letting it go. Destroy and construct it again until I feel that what is in front of me already has a life of its own. It is gratifying when in the process of destruction, I am surprised by what I was chasing but could not see clearly.

LF: You have to feel absolutely free to confidently destroy it.

U: I always work with a lot of freedom and around the idea of metamorphosis and chance. This leads us to our own existence and its meaning. What it is but it might not be. That we are important and irreplaceable but at the same time fragile and insignificant. The line that separates life from death is extremely thin (fragile). Trying to discover or understand the meaning of life is everyone's task. Life is a gift that must be enjoyed in the best way and each moment is unique. What I'm looking for is to get the best out of being alive and that's why I'm destroying, building: painting. Painting gives my life meaning. When I paint, I know that I am alive and that being alive is good.

Laura Falé