
josé patrício
geometry of chance

nara roesler são paulo

opening september 6

exhibition september 6—october 21, 2023



José Patrício, *Tonal expansion and retraction II*, 2017. Courtesy of the artist and Nara Roesler.

Nara Roesler New York is pleased to present *Geometry of Chance*, José Patrício's first solo exhibition in the United States. Bringing together approximately 15 works created by the artist from 2005 to 2023, the exhibition opens to the public on September 6, 2023.

José Patrício's artistic production began in the 1970s, initially focused on printmaking and later exploring the expressive potential of paper itself, through its colors, textures, and formal arrangements in compositional space. However, from the late 1990s, his practice shifted towards popular industrially produced materials commonly found in everyday life, such as buttons, domino pieces, dice, and others. Using these elements, the artist creates extremely sophisticated abstract structures that respond to mathematical permutations and serial unfoldings.

For his first exhibition in New York, José Patrício has gathered a group of works made of small plastic pieces used in puzzle games, which the artist began using in the 2000s as materials for his serialized compositions. In earlier works, these small elements were incorporated with their original prints and designs, as found objects. However, in recent years, the artist has commissioned these pieces directly from the factory that produces them, allowing him to define the shades of puzzle patterns

in order to broaden the compositional spectrum of his works.

The potential arrangements of tonal combinations are determined through mathematical formulas and explored in as many possibilities as possible. According to the artist, while the results of his works are achieved through prior mathematical operations, the visual experience they provide is unpredictable.

Most of the works presented in the exhibition showcase variations of tones that range from black to white, passing through shades of gray and blue. The arrangements of these colors in different tonal sequences make these compositions deeply dynamic, with interplays of luminosity and movement. In the series *Acumulações Progressivas* [Progressive Accumulations], developed since 2014, José Patrício works with pieces in colors without intermediate tones, resulting in a vibrant effect caused by intense chromatic contrasts.

The exhibition also features the series *Recipientes* [Containers], equally made with puzzle pieces but featuring them in reverse. A small cavity visible on the back of the piece, sort of a container, allows the artist to fill it with enamel paint, traditionally used in this type of piece. According to Patrício, this work constitutes a kind of “expanded painting”, a sort of altered found object base so the backsides of the pieces can function as chromatic containers, enriching the compositions.

about josé patricio

José Patrício’s work inscribes itself in the interval between installation and painting, blending the two modalities. His practice involves arranging everyday objects such as dominos, dice, and buttons following serial patterns that create geometric images, featuring an enigmatic familiarity with everyday objects and materials, due to the recognizable popular elements used in his compositions. Patrício gained recognition in the art world in 1999 when he created an installation for the Convent of São Francisco in João Pessoa. During that time, dominos became a key element in many of his works. When viewed from a distance, the patterns take on a painterly quality (given their overall configuration) that contrasts with the individual graphic nature of each piece.

about nara roesler

Nara Roesler is one of Brazil’s leading contemporary art galleries, representing influential Brazilian and Latin American artists from the 1950s, as well as important established and emerging artists who engage with the trends initiated by these historical figures. Founded in 1989 by Nara Roesler, the gallery consistently fosters curatorial innovation while maintaining the highest standards of quality in its artistic productions. It has developed a selective and rigorous exhibition program in close collaboration with its artists, established and maintained the Roesler Hotel program, a platform for curatorial projects, and continuously supports its artists beyond the gallery space, collaborating with institutions and curators for external exhibitions. The gallery expanded its exhibition space in São Paulo in 2012 and inaugurated new spaces in Rio de Janeiro in 2014 and New York in 2015, continuing its mission to provide the best possible platform for its artists to showcase their works.

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nara roesler são paulo
opening september 6, 6 pm– 8pm

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tuesday–friday, 10 am–6 pm

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