

Arca: *Angels*

22.02.2025 – 19.04.2025

Angels is an exhibition of twenty two works from multidisciplinary artist and musician Arca. The works belong to the series also titled *Angels*, made between 2019 and 2024. These pieces combine traditional artistic materials such as paint and markers with unconventional elements such as makeup, glitter and pyrotechnic residues.

The artist says of the paintings: “to me each angel is a Rorschach inkblot, abstracted and refracted through the prisms of naïveté and violence.” Corporeality is fundamental in these artworks, both for the gestuality inherent in their creation and for their imagery, which can be interpreted as a form of expanded portraiture. In many of these paintings a figurative presence is perceived: a spectral form that emerges through multiple overlapping layers that conceal, define and dissolve into each other. Caroline Bourgeois, Senior Curator at Pinault Collection, recalls that “I discovered Arca’s pictorial work thanks to our project at the Bourse de Commerce, which was a more than incredible moment in February 2024... already a year ago, but I haven’t forgotten her work since, which I’d say is a performative act in a completely different way to her musical work, but moves you just as much. These are abstract paintings, but they all remind you of the human cry, the necessity of survival or life for everyone.”

The works in the exhibition maintain a relatively uniform format of approximately 100 x 120 centimeters and are exhibited in a continuous linear arrangement, evoking classical exhibition forms such as the frieze and the panorama. Some of the paintings had their debut in 2024 at Bourse de Commerce as part of Arca’s series of multimedia improvisational performances entitled *The Light Comes in the Name of the Voice*. The exhibition at Cordova, however, marks a milestone as the first exhibition dedicated exclusively to Arca’s visual artwork, presenting several pieces that have not yet been on display.