

BALICE HERTLING

Mercedes Llanos
12.6 - 30.08.2026



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Balice Hertling is pleased to announce Entresueños, the second solo show of Mercedes Llanos at the gallery, opening June 12, through August 30 2026.

Overwhelmed, at night I wake up and see many shades of grays, blacks, and blues. I close my eyes, and see images of the dream I've had. I open again: I can't sleep.

An aura of red invades my eyes. I think of the past, my genetic inheritance, my ancestors. I think of my husband, his story. Is this the end?

I feel pain, mortality, indifference, knowing this will all end, I'm hopelessly hopeful... for what?

Even though I'm overwhelmed, I don't want things to end. I don't want time to pass, I want to love you forever.

I want my body to remain. I want to live because even though it's painful, it is affirming my humanity, and with that my permeability.

Early morning, at dawn, I see you, peacefully resting. I feel love and I feel peace, I am calm. I love you both but deep down I know that the storm will come.

The calmness of this moment is transient, the war will return anytime. At least I can hold on to this forever.

I read a text by Edvard Munch:

Human fates are like planets

Like a star that emerges

from the dark —

and meets another star —

shines for a second before disappearing again

into the dark — it is in this way — in this way

a man and a woman meet — glide towards

one another — are illuminated in love's

flames — to then disappear

in their separate directions —

Only a few meet in a single large blaze — where they both

can be fully united

I cry.

Influenced by the surreal landscape of dreams, Mercedes Llanos paints a mediation of the in-between. Entresueños presents a selection of her recompiled works produced over the past two years. These paintings belong to a mutable realm between states of consciousness, remembered dreams and physicalities.

Developed over the course of many months, each work accumulates multiple layers, often arriving at a final form far removed from its point of origin. In these paintings, inner and outer worlds meet on the canvas surface. Figure and atmosphere become inseparable; the distinction between figure and ground disappear, with each capable of shifting into the other. Unlike her earlier works, which emphasized interactions between figures, these paintings act as beings. The emotion they contain transcend the limits of the body, extending outward, occupying as much space as it can.

The works downstairs titled Naturaleza Muerta (dead nature or still-life) are a direct representations of decaying flowers from Mercedes Llanos's studio.

They are connected to events in the artist's personal life, to experiences that are deeply individual yet resonate on a universal level. The dead flowers symbolize not only death, but also transformation and rebirth. There is a beauty within their decay, a quiet reminder of the cyclical nature of life. The smaller works capture the speed and immediacy of the still-life process.

Through active and quick strokes, Llanos explores the relationship between the vitality of creation and the gradual decay of the subject.

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Exhibition view, Mercedes Llanos, *Entresueños*, 2026, Balice Hertling, Paris

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Bed #3, Desborde, 2025
Oil on canvas
195.6 x 264.2 cm, (77 x 104 in.)

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Exhibition view, Mercedes Llanos, *Entresueños*, 2026, Balice Hertling, Paris

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Bed #7, codependencia radioactive, 2026
Oil and graphite on canvas
195.6 x 264.2 cm, (77 x 104 in.)

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Exhibition view, Mercedes Llanos, *Entresueños*, 2026, Balice Hertling, Paris

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Bed #6, umbra, 2026
Oil on canvas
436.9 x 276.9 cm, (172 x 109 in.)

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Exhibition view, Mercedes Llanos, *Entresueños*, 2026, Balice Hertling, Paris

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Bed #2 Alba, 2025
Oil on canvas
442 x 269.2 cm, (174 x 106 in.)

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Exhibition view, Mercedes Llanos, *Entresueños*, 2026, Balice Hertling, Paris

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Bed #4, red spiral signifies past life trauma, 2025
Oil and graphite on canvas
195.6 x 264.2 cm, (77 x 104 in.)

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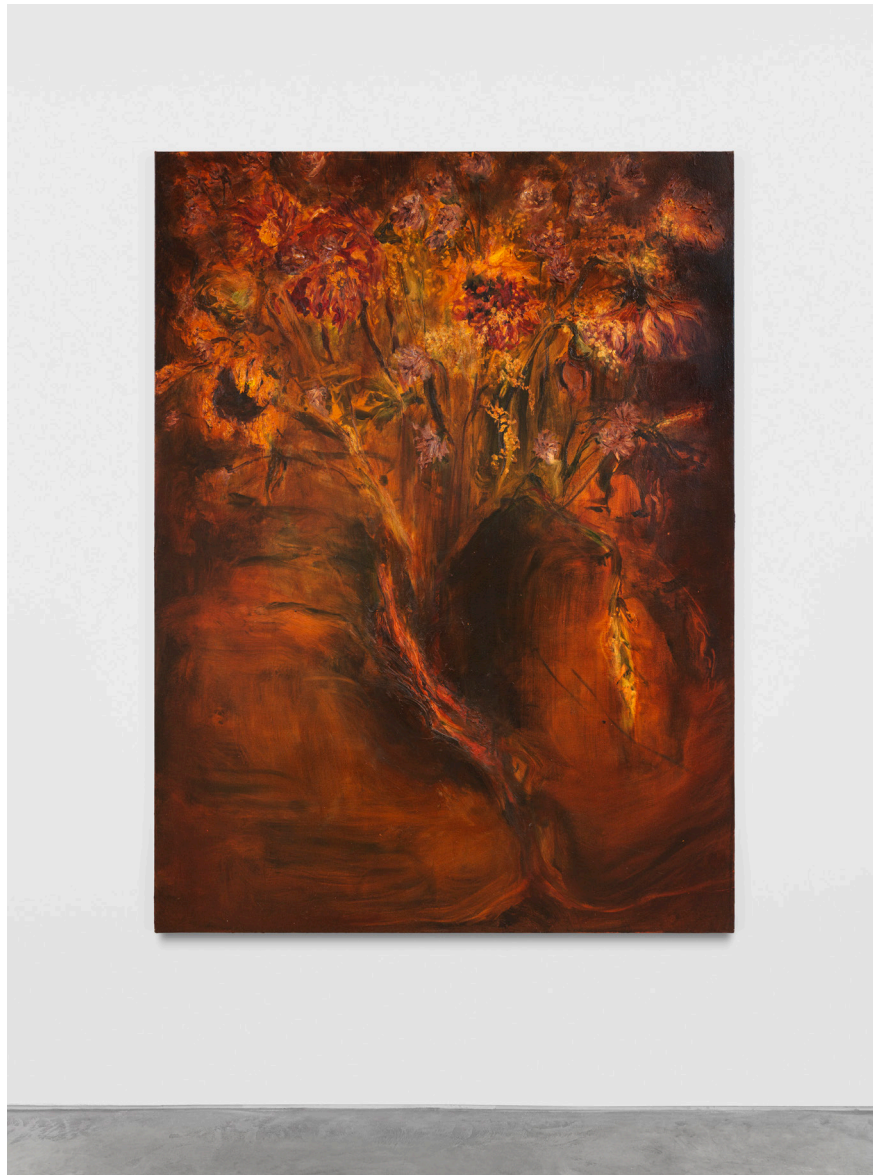
Naturaleza muerta: conjuro, 2025
Oil on canvas
142.9 x 128.9 cm, (56 1/4 x 50 3/4 in.)

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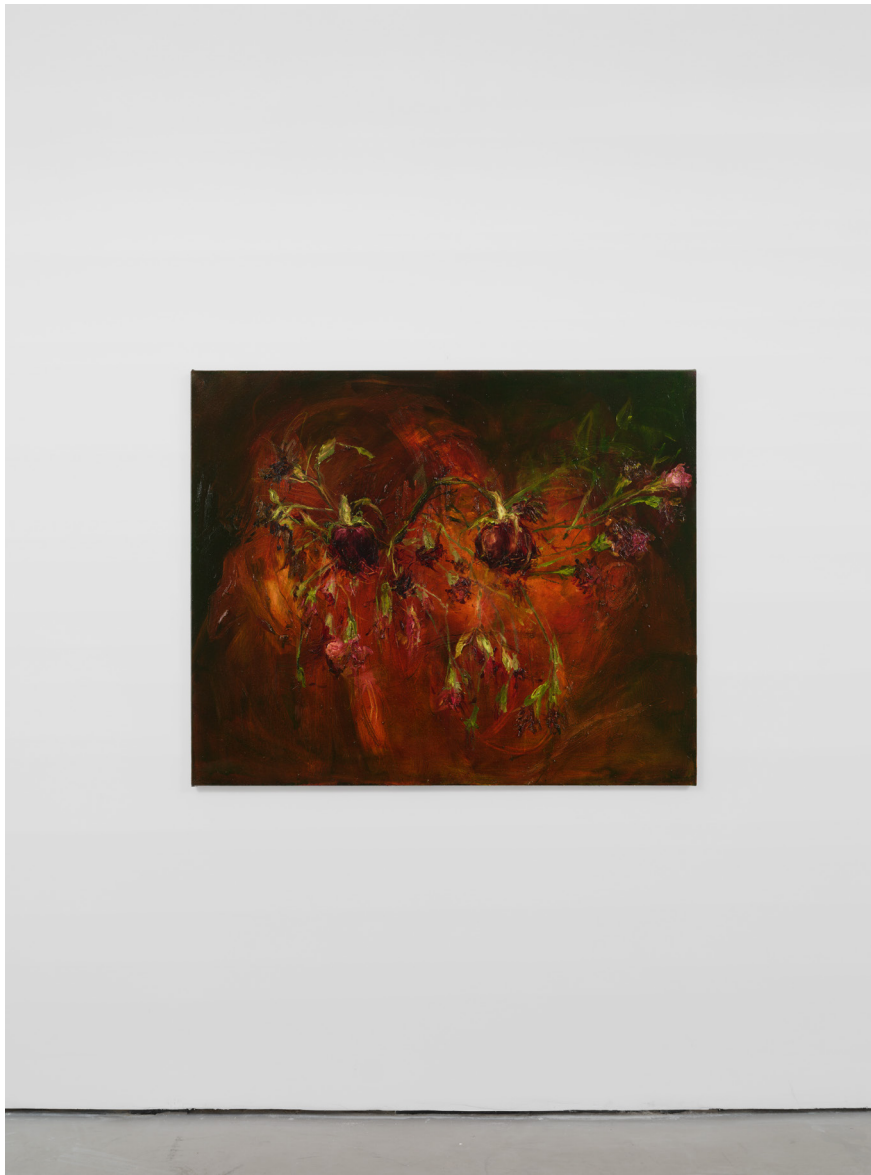
Dried, Red, Dead, 2025
Oil on canvas
177.8 x 130.8 cm, (70 x 51 1/2 in.)

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Naturaleza muerta, beso, 2026
Oil on canvas
94.6 x 115.4 cm, (37 1/4 x 45 1/2 in.)

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Exhibition view, Mercedes Llanos, *Entresueños*, 2026, Balice Hertling, Paris

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Untitled, 2026
Oil on wood on panel
35.6 x 47.9 cm, (14 x 18 7/8 in.)

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35.6 x 47.9 cm, (14 x 18 7/8 in.)

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Untitled, 2026
Oil on wood on panel
35.6 x 47.9 cm, (14 x 18 7/8 in.)

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Untitled, 2026
Oil on wood on panel
27.9 x 37.8 cm, (11 x 14 7/8 in.)

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Untitled, 2026
Oil on wood on panel
27.9 x 37.8 cm, (11 x 14 7/8 in.)