

Fabio Almeida – two statements. 2024

Combining references from the realms of architecture, design and art history, **Fabio Almeida** creates large scale collages using hand painted papers, varnish, Letraset and markers. His playful compositions functioning as fractured landscapes or structures whereupon events and narratives may develop.

A sense of nostalgia permeates through Fabio's work - his colour palette, shapes and materials alluding to a bygone era of modern optimism but tinted with the gritty realities of present day living. Through surface manipulation, Fabio embeds the work with remnants of possible previous lives, past and present jostling in the materiality of the surface.

His recent work draws heavily on the legacy of the Modernist movement so prevalent in his native South America during the immediate post war period. The aesthetics and vision of architects and designers such as Oscar Niemeyer, Lina Bo Bardi, Roberto Burle Marx to name a few, form the building blocks of Almeida's visual language. But his isn't a nostalgic revival of the optimism and order pursued by that generation, his work is laced with a layer of realism and current preoccupations of present day, especially those related to life in large urban areas and the age of information. Almeida's large abstract collages using spray painted, bleached and vintage papers offer playful geometric compositions, referencing design and architecture, but the materiality of the paper, the textures and the gritty surfaces remind us of more mundane aspects of urban life: rough walls, pavements, digital glitches, even pollution.

It is in that tension between the pleasing aesthetics of the compositions and the physicality of the layered surfaces that Almeida's paintings come to life.