

Timothy Taylor



Michel Pérez Pollo, *Rio* (detail), 2024. Oil on linen, 39 $\frac{3}{8}$ × 78 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (100 × 200 cm) © Michel Pérez Pollo

Michel Pérez Pollo *Bolero*

4 April — 3 May 2025
74 Leonard Street, New York

Timothy Taylor is pleased to present *Bolero*, an exhibition of new paintings by Cuban-born, Madrid-based painter Michel Pérez Pollo at the gallery's New York location. *Bolero* will feature large- and small-scale paintings of abstracted glyph-like forms in rich, earthen hues. This is Pérez Pollo's first solo exhibition in New York and his second with the gallery.

This exhibition draws its title from the Cuban musical genre *bolero*, which developed from the romantic folk poetry of troubadours in late nineteenth-century Santiago de Cuba. Pérez Pollo drew particular inspiration from the traditional love song “Longina,” whose lyrics describe a mysterious, sensitive woman. Each painting abstracts a syllable from the song's lyrics, with letter forms that shift in and out of recognition. These works connect the emotional resonance of juxtaposed forms to that of juxtaposed sounds, words, and phrases. Each syllable—reflected in the works's titles, *Sion*, *Rio*, *Ojos*, *Lon*—is depicted with unique chromatic and formal relationships that lend layers of significance to the words they form. Together, these paintings suggest the lyrics, as well as the feelings, of “Longina.”

Like in his other series inspired by the change of seasons or Cuban poets, Pérez Pollo approaches painting as a poetic act, seeking order from chaos. His process involves multiple materials and media: he first creates improvised miniature plasticine and found-object models, which he arranges, lights, and photographs. These subtly biomorphic forms are posed in unlikely configurations—such as a ball or a comma balanced atop another rounded shape, or an elongated form defying its own weight. These objects aren't meant to stand on their own, but in the context of the painting, they are suspended in precarious balance. The artist then transfers his photographed assemblages to canvas before applying paint, allowing chance, spontaneity, and intuition to guide his brushwork. Placing his compositions in hermetic, dramatically lit spaces, he meticulously renders highlights and shadows to create an almost sculptural sense of contour. The resulting paintings possess a photorealistic quality while still showing the hand's gestures, a combination that feels both vital and dynamic.

About the Artist

Michel Pérez Pollo was born in 1981 in Manzanillo, Cuba, and lives and works in Madrid, Spain. He received degrees from the Escuela Profesional de Artes Plásticas de Holguín in 1999 and from the Instituto Superior de Arte de Cuba (ISA) in 2007. The subject of numerous institutional exhibitions, work by Pérez Pollo has recently been featured at the Brownstone Foundation in Paris, France (2021) and the National Gallery of Fine Arts in Havana, Cuba (2018). His recent exhibitions also include *Un Automne*, a solo show at Lempertz, in collaboration with Mai 36, in Brussels, Belgium (2023); *Vidas Paralelas*, a group show at Galleria Continua La Habana in Havana, Cuba (2022); and *PERFUME*, a solo show at Mai 36 Galerie in Zurich, Switzerland (2020).

Press Inquiries

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