

About the exhibit HIDDEN VISIONS

# Revealed Images

by Anelys Alvarez, MA

"Art does not reproduce the visible; rather, it makes visible."

Paul Klee, *Creative Credo*, 1920

The current Art Exhibit by artist Emilio Héctor Rodríguez at The Wirtz Gallery, invites the spectator to go beyond the images that our natural eyes offer us. Grouped with the title **Hidden Visions**, these recent works by the painter bring to our attention the need to refocus our point of view towards the beauty that underlies behind any surface. The photographs of different types of tissues -taken through a microscope- are, at the same time, the initial motive and inspiration for the pieces and a metaphor for all the spectrums of possible worlds, of different unexplored realities and dimensions of human existence.

As is usual in his trajectory, Rodríguez bets on abstraction. In his individual, as well as group exhibits in which he has participated from 2008 until now, his language is characterized by recurring imaginative compositions, conceived through experimentation with colors and the non-figurative shapes he employs. In his dreamlike scenery/ landscape/ visions, time and space transcend the logic they are usually ruled by. A Mathematician by formal education, and thus a connoisseur of the relativity of both concepts, the artist recreates a timeless world in which the elements float suspended and space is seen through chromatic gradations.

Timelessness, subversion of space, predominance of the monochrome, variety of different tones of the same color, blurred contours, ovoid shapes (ameboid?), rupture from the mimesis in the sense of the useless reproduction of the visible... These qualities are all constant in his production.

**Hidden Visions** incorporates, nevertheless, new shades to the interpretation. While the artist assumes as a starting point the images from the book **Micro-Art: Art Images in a Hidden World** (Lewis R. Wolberg, MD, Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1970), the frontiers between abstraction and the figurative become blurred, flexible: of language diametrically opposed they turn into complementary, interchangeable no absolute. To Emilio Héctor abstractionism is not a pragmatic attitude; he does not go after a universal language or a pure form; he does not pursue to establish empathy between plastic forms and musical notes, nor does he try to give expression to the dictates of the surrealist psychic automatism. His art is about suggestions that penetrate things to describe them, to re-create them in their imagined composition.

The expressiveness of color and the exploration of different gradations of one shade to another predominates his paintings. Color creates shapes, it builds the painting without having to appeal to a clear drawing. In the artist's palette the reddish tones, green, orange, blue and violet are recurrent, usually worked in deep ranges, which bring out the focus of light through the use of transparencies and delicate touches of white in details in the painting *Hidden Vision*. Most of the times the title acts as an agent provoking meaning: *The beauty of chaos*, *Love in a mist*, or the different pieces inspired in the book *Ecclesiastes*, evoke an intellectual search that alternates between full freedom and the need for a formal accuracy, of an internal order within the work, even when not explicit.

The images that the artist transfers to the canvas come from a hidden world behind factual reality. They originate in the vertex where science and art meet to render evident the various communicative vessels between both knowledge fields. It was towards the end of the XIX century that investigations done in psychology, biology and other sciences started to reveal the narrow relationship between the visible and the invisible, the material and the spirit. Even though the symbolist movement became interested in exploring these issues and later on some important figures of the vanguard utilized some terms taken from biology and organic science to construct and explain their theories around art, the door towards a dialog is unfinished; it is still open.

Through this invitation, **Hidden Visions** becomes a window to the potential possibilities to discover our surroundings and ourselves.

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