



Prologue

Through the curtain of his creations, Matías Duville invites us on a journey through desolate landscapes, imbued with rarefied and timeless atmospheres, which seem to herald natural cataclysms or scenes of vital emptiness. These visions beckon us to a dreamlike exploration, as if viewed through the eyes of an absent observer. His focus on drawing is enriched by experimentation with various media and materials. Duville's technique, marked by expressive strokes and an almost brutal treatment of surfaces, fuses the texture of the material with the essence of the landscape. In his most recent works, themes such as duality, transformation, and the passage of time take center stage.

From the immensity and mystery that envelop Duville's work, the audience delves into a visual dialogue where each line and trace of his experimental procedures tell stories of the world. In this exhibition, transcending the two-dimensionality of paper and wood, the artist employs charcoal, sanguine, fingers, brushes, and the flame of fire to create a cartography that not only records places and structures but also captures the tragedies of post-civilization landscapes or potential extraterrestrial scenarios. Duville's drawings and paintings, true rivers of ink and time, explore a terrain full of possibilities and ruins. His art, which converses with the language of dreams and omens, establishes boundaries between the known and the unknown, inviting viewers to reflect on fragility and resilience, decline and rebirth. These works offer a poetic vision of the future of civilization and shed light on the human condition, revealing themselves as a modern oracle.

—First Act: ERASING THE PATH—

Scene I "Soul Roads" presents a dramatic and vast mountainous landscape rendered in sanguine, whose red-brown tone imparts warmth and an earthy character. This medium excels at achieving depth and a naturalism that stands out in the rich textures and shading of the composition. The mountains are depicted with a dynamic interplay of light and shadow, evoking their ruggedness and elevation, while the winding paths invite the viewer's gaze to follow, suggesting spiritual journeys. The rough and energetic lines of the sky might symbolize movement or the passage of time, and the large scale of the work facilitates an immersive viewing experience, projecting a vast and enigmatic landscape that invites introspection and exploration.

Scene II "Melting Paths" is a sanguine drawing on paper that uses its characteristic reddish tones to create a monochromatic landscape. The composition centers on an island-like form, which seems to float either in space or on a reflective surface that could suggest water or even another dimension. This island, covered with vegetation akin to cacti and evoking a desert-like environment, is framed by a circular outline that suggests a world contained within another or a bubble-like separation from its surroundings. This enclosed space appears to melt into long, dripping lines that extend beyond the island's boundaries, adding a surreal quality and visually connecting the "floating" island with the space below. The piece plays with the idea of physical laws being challenged, with a background and lower area tinged with sanguine tones that create a warm yet unsettling atmosphere, resonating in the viewer's subconscious. This rich artistic expression in duality captures the essence of a dreamlike landscape where the familiar transforms into the enigmatic, challenging the boundaries of reality and inviting deep exploration of the metaphysical.

Scene III "Lagoa" evokes an intense reflection on the transience and fragile permanence of human creations. With its palette of monochromatic tones, the charcoal has been skillfully manipulated to illustrate a scene that, while inert and devastated, pulses with untold stories. Each structure emerges from the paper not only as an architectural construction but also as a monument to human ambition and its inevitable decline. The central lake acts as a somber mirror, reflecting the silhouettes of a forgotten past, while the distant mountains remain unperturbed, silent witnesses to the erosion of time and culture. Together, the work awakens a meditation on the ephemeral versus the eternal, inviting the viewer to contemplate the connection between nature and human creations, as well as the legacy we leave behind.

Scene VI "Pink Ashes I" is a charcoal work that imprints a rough texture rich in detail, complemented by soft touches of pastel in pink tones. It represents a somewhat abstract and severe landscape, with forms that evoke dark tree trunks or tall figures, set against a light background. These forms, delineated in black, contrast with the subtle and diffused effects of the charcoal, creating the impression of a rough terrain or a ground covered in ashes. At the center of the work, a swirling circular pattern acts as a focal point, evoking a vortex or whirlwind that could symbolize turbulence or a poignant event. The touches of pink stand out against the monochromatic background, suggesting flames, life, or regeneration amid destruction. An arch that traverses the landscape guides the gaze upward and through the scene, infusing movement and connecting the visual elements. "Pink Ashes I" oscillates between devastation and renewal, with the pink pastel bringing a spark of color and hope in an otherwise predominantly dark and somber composition.

Scene V "Sunset Boulevard" captures a supernatural sunset, with the sky bathed in orange tones that radiate into the wood, suggesting the heat of an eclipsed black sun with an almost apocalyptic glow. Against this backdrop, the silhouettes of charred palm trees and the undulating forms of the terrain create a dramatic contrast, evoking a desolate landscape under the waning light. At the center of the composition, a dark eclipsed sun, surrounded by a luminous halo, captures attention, symbolizing decay or change and plunging the scene into a somber tone. The white paint burns and scattered golden brushstrokes resemble the twinkling lights of a distant city or the last glimmers of the day. The work, an intertwining of the natural with the imaginary, uses the expressiveness of acrylic and polyurethane paint on wood to provide a tactile texture that underscores the raw and profound energy of the moment captured.

—Second Act: CRIMSON SILENCE—

Scene I "Crimson Silence" is a painting characterized by a vivid and intense crimson background that resembles a turbulent and restless sky. Dominating the lower half is a large dark shape rising from the base of the composition, with a rough texture reminiscent of a cliff face. The use of black and white highlights against this form gives it a sense of solidity and depth, like a silent colossus witnessing the burning sky. White streaks and marks at the base may be interpreted as reflections or perhaps the foam of a tumultuous sea, providing a stark contrast to the heavy form above. This work seems to capture a moment of natural drama, suggesting a landscape alive with movement and raw energy, yet paradoxically anchored in the stillness of solid forms. "Crimson Silence" aptly encapsulates the juxtaposition of visual noise and the implied stillness of the landscape.

Scene II "Nightclub Mirror" immerses the viewer in a mystical, nocturnal landscape. Dominated by a deep background of blues and blacks that evoke a starry sky, the piece is speckled with white particles imitating stars. In the foreground, shapes resembling trees and land masses, outlined in various shades of blue, white, and green, sway with an ethereal quality, almost as if dancing to a celestial rhythm. These exaggerated and swirling forms add life and movement to the scene. The stellar reflections in the water enhance the work's depth, creating the illusion of a mirrored surface. More than a static image, this scene is dynamic and vibrant, with formations that seem to float over a frozen lake or alien landscape, all under a softly illuminated celestial dome. The use of acrylic and polyurethane paints adds texture and shine, intensifying the cold sensation and reminiscent sparkle of a disco ball. "Nightclub Mirror" invites contemplation on reflection, both literal and metaphorical, and explores the duality between stillness and movement, silence and music, cold and warmth, in a fascinating blend of natural beauty and artificial luminescence.

Scene III "Caída del peñón" captures a tumultuous and vibrant scene, where a large icy land formation, painted in shades of blue and white, suggests a collapsing glacier. This rock seems to dramatically break away into the sea, with ice blocks captured in mid-fall, creating a palpable dynamism. Contrasts of fiery red and pink, reminiscent of corals or alien vegetation, frame the cold structure, symbolizing the interaction between fire and ice, creation and destruction. The black background, speckled with white, evokes a starry sky or debris in the air, while a red circular shape in this sky might be interpreted as a celestial body or a metaphorical portal. The cataclysmic energy of the piece is intensified by the texture of the paint, capturing a moment of astounding natural power that evokes feelings of the sublime.

Scene IV "Cardos de noche pampeana" is an abstract work evoking a dance of organic forms against a dark navy blue background. The circular shapes with radiant lines, reminiscent of dandelions or seed heads in the wind, dominate the composition. Each form features a black core with fine filaments of white and peach extending outward, evoking glowing embers or bioluminescent sea creatures. Movement is a key element, with the forms captured in dispersal, as if carried by a swift, invisible breeze. The fluid brushwork and contrasting textures of charred paint and reflective polyurethane add depth and dimension, creating a dreamlike atmosphere. This interplay of light and shadow invites contemplation of the ephemeral, suggesting that these forms could represent fleeting ideas or moments, capturing the transient beauty that flows before us.

Scene V "Blowing Glossy" is a dynamic and textured representation of a nocturnal scene, perhaps inspired by natural landscapes, marked by energetic brushstrokes and vivid contrasts between whites, evoking snow, and a palette of blues and greens, infusing the work with a wild and nocturnal beauty. The composition might be a view of a forest or field under heavy snowfall, with trees bent by the wind and covered in frost that glows under the moonlight. The green tones might allude to foliage or northern lights, adding a mysterious and almost magical aura. Texture is fundamental in this work, where the glossy finish of the polyurethane captures and reflects light, simulating reflective surfaces of a nighttime landscape. This piece blends abstraction with natural elements, capturing the untamed spirit of the night and fostering an emotional connection with the viewer.

Scene VI "Vertices of Time" captures a profound sense of movement and transformation with its spiraling and overlapping brushstrokes, dominated by tones of white and gray that evoke a mountainous landscape eroded over millennia. The bold white forms rise and fall poetically across the canvas,

highlighted against a dark background that plays with light and shadow to depict natural terrains. Drops and splashes of paint add a sense of antiquity and wear, like marks left by the forces of time. A mysterious brown circular shape at the top might symbolize a celestial body or an eye, suggesting the constant vigilance of time over the changing landscape. With a textured surface, the work reflects the eternal dance between creation and decay, physically manifesting the relentless march of time.

Scene VII "Los Luminosos" explores the dramatic contrast between light and darkness, with a deep black background that evokes the void of space or the depths of night. White, light-emitting elements emerge from this darkness, reminiscent of ice formations or stalactites. At the center of the composition, a brown circular shape surrounded by white suggests a full moon or an eclipsed sun, emitting a faint glow. On the left, a cascade of light seems to flow downward, captured as if frozen in time. Figures that might be rocks or a city illuminated from below emerge from the bottom, each reflecting the light in its own way and floating freely in the darkness, adding mystery and a touch of magic to the piece. "The Luminous" challenges the viewer to reflect on the duality of light, as a revealer of mysteries and persistent even in the deepest darkness.

Scene VIII "Volcano" captures the raw and turbulent energy of a volcanic eruption through a vibrant mound-like formation in tones of orange and white, reflecting the violent expulsion of lava. This central figure is surrounded by dark, fluid shapes and lines that mimic the chaos and whirlwind of such a natural event. Above the eruption, white and gray streaks against a black background suggest plumes of smoke and ash rising into the sky, while circular and textured patterns within the explosion add a tactile element that highlights the explosive force. The painting's surroundings, marked by streaks and drips of white and black, reflect the aftermath of the eruption, like solidified lava flows or a devastated landscape. The glossy finish of the paint intensifies the visual contrast, illustrating not only the powerful force of nature but also the austere beauty inherent in destructive forces.

—Third Act: COBALT WAVES—

Scene I "Coral Skeleton" is an abstract painting where white forms dynamically stand out against a deep, dark background. The central shape evokes the complexity and delicate structure of coral, with its branches and protrusions. The white and yellow forms are tinged with strokes of blue, suggesting a maritime connection—perhaps the ghostly remains of a coral reef deep in the sea. Gold and silver particles throughout the piece add a touch of luminescence, as if reflecting light filtering from above the water's surface. This might symbolize the enduring life or beauty of natural forms even after death. The darkness surrounding the white forms accentuates their ethereal quality, making them appear to float in a vast and unknown space.

—Epilogue: ASHES OF MODERNITY—

The work of Matías Duville presents itself as a realm of contradictions—a place and yet no place, where the empty space of the mind expands and the world is shown in a constant state of decomposition and recomposition. It is a stage where the transfiguration of the world manifests through new catastrophes and chimeras. In this peculiar paradise, death seems to have been banished, leaving behind only the ashes of modernity. Reality emerges as the surface of the work breaks apart, where melted paint and perforations reveal deeper layers. In this context, Duville not only depicts landscapes but engages with the material to explore a distinct climate and magic, illuminated by a chiaroscuro in which reds are suns and internal paths are reflected in the papers that narrate the ashes of our era.

In contemporary art, where each work becomes a battleground of ideological dispute, Duville's collection stands out as a sharp and lyrical commentary on our collective future. By confronting us with the environmental transformations of the planet, the artist highlights how the charcoal lines and brushstrokes, exposed to the compositional destruction of fire, are echoes of our actions—silent yet powerful witnesses to the world we are shaping. This visual challenge urges us to assume our responsibility in designing the future, an image that could be as alluring in its aesthetics as it is terrifying in the tones we choose to employ, reflecting the enigma of the relationship between life and nature.

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