

Paco León / Visual artist

Paintings

PORTAFOLIO



016

For me, art is connected to human beings through infinite threads that can be regarded as a link or parallel between our cognitive processes and spiritual convictions. That is, the connection of all realms.

Art is physics, poetry, spirituality, creative intention, contingency, eroticism, politics, humor, vibration, alchemy and good. It's the possibility of playing and bringing proposals forward through visual and written metaphors. It's about making choices and going down a path where pauses and contact points link ideas together. It's about taking a look at yourself by making observations a critical practice. Letting the viewer associate or dissociate, making the act of reflection more playful and free, like Huidobro's creationism and Parra's anti-poetry. It's the reflection of a society and its freedom of expression.

For my part, there is also an interest in connecting the subject of alien life to the most authentic part of ancient cultures and to suggest them between the lines, playing with comic book visuals to provide this overly-used connection with a certain levity.

Today, I'm interested in using weave-like visuals that resemble embroidery or tattoos in terms of color and the shallow depths of a hidden and simple landscape.

PL.





about my work

Looking and thinking

Looking at Paco León's work makes us want to become painters. His images are captured in the canvas like a kaleidoscope of butterflies fluttering on a field. His passion for painting is evident in the application of materials on to the canvas and the possibility of forever capturing the shapes that stem from his imagination spontaneously, or from recurrent ideas. As an artist, he doesn't let these images fade as it happens in the fragile world of dreams.

This becomes evident in the photograph of his statement: he's standing, guarding a piece from above, which matches the color of his clothing. In the piece, *Cartón Futurama*, one side showcases a painting on a 1.80m high refrigerator box, and on the other, he confidently poses with the thing that gives his life meaning: a brush.

This spontaneity from the shapes and the colors is not replicated in the titles he chooses. They lay out a subject, they're intellectual titles. They urge the viewer to enjoy the experience through memory and intelligence. Nietzsche wrote: "We have art in order not to die from the truth." Paco entitled a 2015 piece: *En lo profundo y la luz*.

The allusion in his statement to poetry and metaphor as nourishment for viewers was a warning cry. For Paco, there is no way of life without art, poetry or music. There's no living without sensitivity!

Elie Wiesel said: "God created man because He loves stories." Paco's canvases have the ability to hold magical images created from the darkness of his inner cavern. The idea is creating metaphoric meaning that will become universal over time. Like a shaman in a dark cave, Paco prepares to hunt, and that is how he painted *Trinos cromáticos de aves y búho*, a piece from 2017. The bright colors of the painting take over his flying spirit. If we could date Paco's sensitive walls using Carbon-14, it would pinpoint an immemorial relevance where paintings transcend time and space.

Memory and their fragility are found in the simultaneous images. Canvases today, like walls in Neolithic caves, contain the images that will endure time. They are an eternal, subtle and charming vessel for images. The viewer is thankful to discover a sensitivity that's manifested in the intuition of the shapeless and unutterable. When examined, the shapes acquire meaning, when thought of, the right words to describe their contemporaneity emerge.

Paco León's painting is a confession of experiences or dreams. They propose an exploration of a time and space that celebrates creation as a mirror of his individuality. The people who see the pieces will never forget if they have a painter's head (*¿Cabeza un pintor?*) or question if there's a fawn or rabbit (*¿Cervato o Conejo?*). The passion oozing from them is irreplaceable. León focuses on the viewers and he doesn't let go until the last transparency is unveiled.

Paco is a wizard with color. He can light up a painting like *Amarillo Nórdico* so the golden, red and green hues are so bright they burn. Or like in *La sombra en el espejo* where cold tones merge in an austral night. The different layers he applies on the support, much like in life, hide reality. Mirroring the piece, this situation is replicated in day-to-day life, chatting with friends and going back to family driven by art and love.

**“My painting falls freely
it trickles and fits
precise
flows like water
and doesn't shine
subtle disagreements
of a wild
measured acidity”**

+ paintings 2024-2003



"Abstracción y contracción de un cómic", pintura sobre tela, 130 x 190 cms, 2019-2022



A Blue Meanie, a shadow in the realm of light and awareness

“En lo profundo y la luz” pintura sobre tela, 90 x 160 cms, 2014



"Gaviotin de Cahuil"
pintura sobre tela, 90 x 160 cms, 2014



"A toda costa"
2016 / pintura sobre tela / 130 x 200 cms.



"Andes del ártico" pintura sobre tela, 62 x 87 cms, 2014



"Calidos vientos polares"
2014 / pintura sobre tela / 100x 120 cms.



"Portal"
2015 / pintura sobre tela / 100x 100 cms.





"Realidades opuestas"
2015 / pintura sobre tela /60 x 160 cms.



"Paisaje secreto"
2003/ pintura sobre tela /100x 110 cms.



"Ser azul - marino"
2021 / pintura sobre tela /140 x 200 cms.

“En el camino la cobra y el esquimal fueron bendecidos por el búho”
2021 / pintura sobre tela /140 x 120 cms.



the work as the body of time

"The Little Yellow Ghost"



"El pequeño fantasma amarillo"
pintura sobre tela, 90 x 90 cms, 2023

“polyptych and apocalyptic”





"Vaguada en azul", pintura sobre tela, 130 x 180 cms, 2023





“She and her dark matter”

“Ella y su materia oscura”, pintura sobre tela, 130 x 190 cms, 2023



"Campos unificados"
pintura sobre tela, 130 x 190 cms, 2023

Francisco (Paco) León was born in Santiago de Chile in 1972. A year later, his family moved to Stockholm, Sweden. After spending 5 years there, he returned to his native country, but he continued visiting the European country frequently until 2005 when his father moved back to Chile.

At age 18, Paco traveled to the United States and studied Science of Creative Intelligence (CIC) at Maharishi University. There, he started painting in the free time his job and studies allowed him.

Upon his return, he decided to devote himself to painting and studied an additional year at the Arcis University. He then embarked in a self-taught endeavor, nurtured by his experiences and an interest in learning through visiting workshops such as La Brocha, a meeting and creation place of the 80s and 90s.

As the godson of artist Hugo Marín, he inherited transcendental meditation as a crucial tool for his development. He actively participated in the artist's studio, where he gained and applied his knowledge.

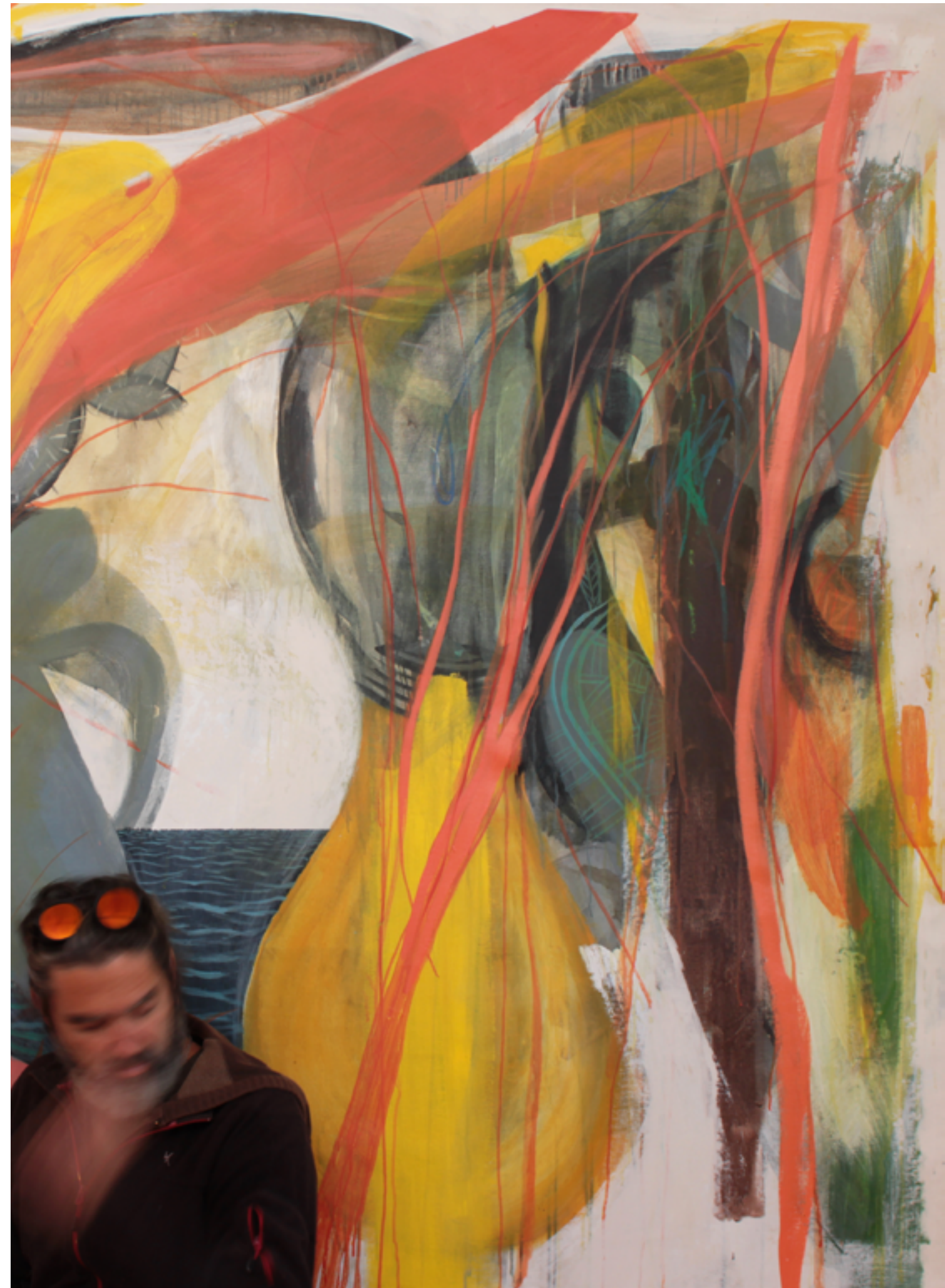
He lived in Valparaíso, where he pursued painting, and in 1996 he moved back to Santiago to hold his first exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MAC), a milestone that kick-started his professional artistic career.

To cultivate himself, Paco has participated in several collective workshops such as La Brocha, Generador, Taller Tuna and Taller Italia, where he's spent time with celebrated national artists. He has also organized local visual arts events as an artist who's "swimming against the tide", as he coined himself.

Paco finds his pictorial language in landscapes and abstraction, futuristic and tribal elements. The journal El Mercurio once described him as "a futuristic ethnic painter."

Painting is his favorite technique but he has also tried his hand at print-making, photography, collage, sculpture, drawing and editorial work through his collage and poetry project "Polo sur-do."

His work has been exhibited in several samples in both Chile and abroad, in countries like China, Korea, USA, Venezuela, Paraguay, Uruguay and Peru. Moreover, his pieces are part of several private, corporate and public collections including Chiloé's Museum of Modern Art (MAM), the University of Talca (UTAL), Compañía Cervecerías Unidas (CCU), UBS Switzerland AG, Almagro Constructora, Polincay, South Cone Investment Advisor (CDC IXIS), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).





www.pacoleon.cl
[paco leon arte](mailto:paco_leon_arte)

leonpaco@gmail.com
+56984266580

Photographers
Irma Bernhard
Bernardo Carvajal
Paco León