



NATURE'S DUET

FROM THE FARJAM COLLECTION, SELECTED AWORKS BY :
JORGE MAYET & DAISUKE OHBA



THE
FARJAM
FOUNDATION



ABOUT THE FARJAM FOUNDATION

NATURE'S DUET

FOREWORD BY FARHAD FARJAM

DAISUKE OHBA

JORGE MAYET

ABOUT

The Farjam Foundation

The Farjam Foundation, based in Dubai, is a centre for preservation and promotion of the arts at large. The Farjam Foundation's mission is to serve art enthusiasts, scholars and curators in order to bridge cross-cultural barriers through educational and artistic means. In 2013, the evolution of The Farjam Collection into The Farjam Foundation signified a greater focus on the link between art and philanthropy.

At the core of the Foundation's work lies The Farjam Collection; one of the world's foremost privately owned art collections encompassing Islamic, Middle Eastern and Western art. Its vast Islamic section spans the entire history of Islam, comprising a multitude of art forms from manuscripts on science, poetry and mathematics to textiles, metal works, paintings, sculptures, lacquers and fine carpets. Uniquely, an important portion of The Farjam Collection is devoted to modern and contemporary art from the Middle East, celebrating leading artists such as Abbas Kiarostami, Shirin Neshat and Farhad Moshiri from Iran, Susan Hefuna, Monir Fatmi and Abdul Nasser Gahrem from its Arab section, and Gulay Semercioglu, Devrim Erbil and Bahar Oganer from Turkey. The Farjam Collection equally takes pride in its distinguished and extensive selection of international art, with a selection of works that includes principal figures of Modern art history such as Pablo Picasso, Willem de Kooning, Alexander Calder and Andy Warhol, alongside masters of Contemporary art such as Anselm Kiefer, Jeff Koons and Andreas Gursky. The Farjam Foundation's flagship DIFC space houses a series of alternating thematic exhibitions made available to the public in order to showcase the Collection's works and share them with a wider audience.

The Farjam Foundation works with top universities and educational institutions hosting tours and specialized programmes for young scholars. Our initiatives and collaborations enhance a broader understanding of cultural differences through a curriculum of cultural and artistic programmes promoting tolerance and dialogue between nations. The Foundation has worked with the United Nation's World Food Programme as well as the Dubai Cares Foundation. The Farjam Foundation's principal objective is to connect the world through cultural, intellectual, and educational experiences.

ALL EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMMES ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

NATURE'S DUET

JORGE MAYET & DAISUKE OHBA

Jorge Mayet and Daisuke Ohba, two internationally acclaimed and award winning contemporary artists, are prime representatives of the range and diversity existing in the world of artistic expression as they dazzle with their contrasting techniques, vision and influences. Nature's Duet brings these two remarkable visionaries together through their quest to portray a common theme: elements of the natural world. This exhibition captures the path that Mayet and Ohba have individually followed to bring to life their interpretations of natural light and the everlasting roots of trees, all the while strongly tying in their own life journey to their artwork and offering a glimpse of themselves through their powerful installations. The magnificence of the natural world is captured to perfection through the brilliant and innovative techniques they employ in engineering their artwork, resulting in breath taking pieces of such a life like quality that they jump out of the canvas and deep into one's imagination. With their powerful metaphors and cunning illusions from cutting edge methods, the artists courageously bare their souls to their viewers and open up a huge realm of creative possibility. Nature's Duet showcases both these talents' perceptions of the enchanting wonders of nature, in particular when they capture the earthly elements in collaboration with one another to grant artists with the perfect source of inspiration to create everlasting masterpieces.

Foreword by Farhad **Farjam**

FOUNDER OF THE FARJAM FOUNDATION

It is with great excitement that I present two such extraordinary and original talents in the shape of Jorge Mayet and Daisuke Ohba at The Farjam Foundation. Both artists are alike in the great success their works have achieved on an international scale, and both have drawn a high level of respect for their originality and courageousness within the art world. I am proud to host two such visionaries, who bring a fresh and innovative interpretation by drawing on the beauty of the natural world to push the boundaries of expression to deeper levels. Both Ohba and Mayet are examples of artists who realize their visions by drawing on noble elements such as the beauty of nature, life experiences and unique methods of creating masterpieces. On the one hand we have Ohba with his innovative techniques to represent the incredible beauty of light in a natural setting and encompass the viewer into his artwork. On the other we have Mayet who draws on his difficult personal experiences symbolized through his highly realistic replications of the natural world that serve as metaphors for his deepest transcending emotions. It is my hope that the courageous and unique methods both these artists employ in the creation of their installations will inspire young people who come and visit this exhibition to reach deep into their creative pools and recognize the vastness and limitlessness of the realm of artistic expression. The Farjam Foundation aspires to facilitate this exposure by making their works available and allow others to draw their own ideas and inspiration to create future masterpieces.

Contemporary artists such as Mayet and Ohba are crucial to furthering links between art and education for through them younger generations gain exposure to ever-evolving artistic methods and the importance of using life experience, heritage and courage in the development of their own creativity. In a day and age in which the very source of these artists' inspiration is in danger, educating people towards protecting the natural world becomes ever more pressing. It is my hope that the emphasis these two artists put on nature is appreciated and encourages young people to value and protect it, so that they, in turn, might be able to look to its harmony and extraordinary beauty for inspiration. I would like to thank The Farjam Foundation team for their hard work in making this unique exhibition a reality.

Farhad Farjam

March 2014

DAISUKE OHBA

Daisuke **Ohba** is a Japanese artist based in Tokyo, known for his large-scale abstract and landscape paintings and considered to be one of the most prominent up-and-coming artists today. He was born in Shizuoka in 1981 and received his MFA from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. In 2004 he was awarded the Shell Art Prize and has been extensively displaying his artworks in national and international exhibitions. Nature's Duet exhibits a series of works from this first solo exhibition entitled *The Light Field*, which was held in Tokyo in 2009.

Ohba's works in *Nature's Duet* operate on two principal levels, the first being the landscape he depicts of woodland setting, and the second being the ways in which he pours an enchanting pool of light across his canvas, giving the whole piece an effect similar to that of stained glass with illuminating rays filtering through. The technique devised to achieve this impact is his skillful use of opalescent acrylic pearl paint which allows him to create ever changing illusions of light with shifting colours, bringing his artworks to life and giving them a sense of movement as the onlookers migrate through the space they are displayed in. Ohba pushes the boundaries of his representations of light by extending the power of his artwork beyond the physical limitations of the canvas and allowing the viewer to feel apart of the experience, becoming enveloped in the atmosphere of the piece. Each individual develops a unique relationship with Ohba's creations, for external elements such as natural light and the viewer's line of sight are carefully considered in his landscape depictions. The interplay between the artwork, viewer and environment is what leads Ohba to define his creations as 'installations in painting form'. The piece shifts in appearance according to the angle the onlooker chooses or the natural light of the moment of observation. In his own words, 'The work adapts to circumstances, rather than controls them'. The opalescent paint engulfs the space in which the works are presented in an illusion of light, emanating splendour. Although at first glance the viewer sees forests and trees, the staggering effect woven by Ohba is the dazzling illumination that captures observer and makes him or her feel as though they too were engulfed in a natural world of the sublime and of shimmering light that the artist has recreated. It is this very effect that led Daisuke Ohba to entitle his first solo exhibition '*The Light Field*'.

JORGE MAYET

Nature's Duet presents a selection of sculptures and paintings from Cuban refugee artist **Jorge Mayet** whose works, which are strongly influenced by his Caribbean roots, are becoming increasingly renowned on an international scale. Born in Cuba in 1962, Mayet focused primarily on painting at the beginning of his career, but gradually moved on to concentrate on creating sculptures and installations. His artworks have been showcased extensively around the world, with exhibitions in venues such as the Museum of Arts and Design in New York and a current collection in the Saatchi Museum in London. Mayet lives and works in Mallorca, Spain.

Nature is a resounding theme amongst Mayet's artworks, but far from aiming to capture only its contemplative beauty, his representations of landscapes also seek to evoke an underlying internal conflict he feels as a consequence of his displacement from his homeland. The artworks produced respond to a need to recreate a body of memories, the artist's own memories, turning his pieces into a perceptible poem of transcending emotions capturing his sentiments of exile and disharmony. Mayet has become particularly well known globally for his unique and ingenious sculptural representations. His skillfully crafted installations of uprooted trees hanging in mid air are a metaphor for his own life experience: feelings of being suspended between his country of birth and the country he has since adopted as home. These conflicting emotions in perpetual evolution attach a new facet to the intricately constructed floating representations. Mayet creates his works, which often take the shape of imaginary trees as well as other objects from the natural world, with a unique combination of electrical wire, paper, acrylics and fabric. So skillfully engineered are his installations and so life like is the final result that it is difficult for the onlooker to differentiate them from a miniature version of reality. The artist captures nature's landscape to perfection, all the while depicting an extra dimension rich in symbolism that alludes to a life filled with loss, confusion and loneliness.

DAISUKE OHBA

The opalescent paint engulfs the space in which the works are presented in an illusion of light, emanating splendour.



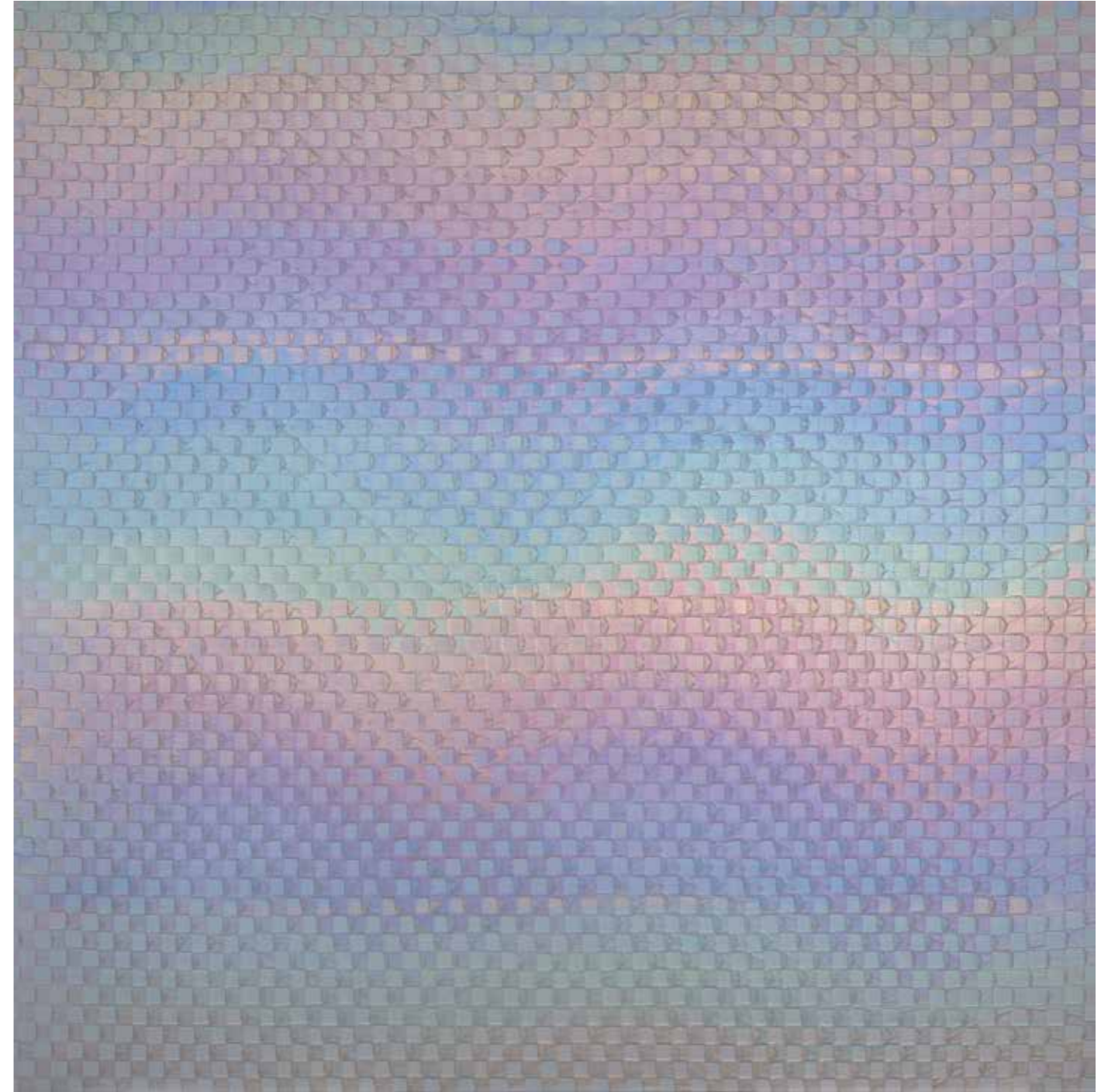
OHBA, Daisuke
UROBOROS(woods)
Acrylic on cotton and wood panel
180 x 220 cm
Executed in 2008



The interplay between the artwork, viewer and environment is what leads Ohba to define his creations as ‘installations in painting form’.

OHBA, Daisuke
UROBOROS(woods)
Acrylic on cotton and wood panel
180 x 220 cm
Executed in 2008

*The work adapts to circumstances,
rather than controls them. - Daisuke Ohba*



OHBA, Daisuke
UROBOROS(spectryn)
Acrylic on cotton and wood panel
180 x 180 cm
Executed in 2008

JORGE MAYET

*Whether it is painting or sculpture does not matter.
It is not about comfort but about the limitless need,
independent of the medium used, to express moments
that have marked my past and influence my present.*

- Jorge Mayet



MAYET, Jorge
Flores Rojas, Venas Negras
Electrical cable, paper
100 x 60 x 60 cm
Executed in 2009



The majority of my life experiences come from Cuba. It is from these that I draw inspiration when conceptualizing my works. Once installed, these embodiments ... remain indefinitely suspended from invisible wires, like those which connect me to my memories and my roots.

- Jorge Mayet

MAYET, Jorge
Cayendo Suave
Electrical cable, paper «*maché*»,
Feathers and acrylics
150 x 100 x 100 cm
Executed in 2008



MAYET, Jorge
Buscando Qué
Oil on canvas
180 x 180 cm
Each canvas 73 x 50 cm
Executed in 2006

MAYET, Jorge
To Lose To Find
Acrylic on canvas
Each canvas 145 x 97cm
Executed in 2005





MAYET, Jorge
La Última Vez Que Le Vi Ya
No Tiraba Flores al Mar
Oil on canvas
100 x 65 cm
Executed in 2005

MAYET, Jorge
Untitled
Oil on canvas
100 x 65 cm
Executed in 2006



MAYET, Jorge
Untitled
Electrical Cable, Papier Maché,
Textile and Acrylic
140 x 70 x 70 cm
Executed in 2008

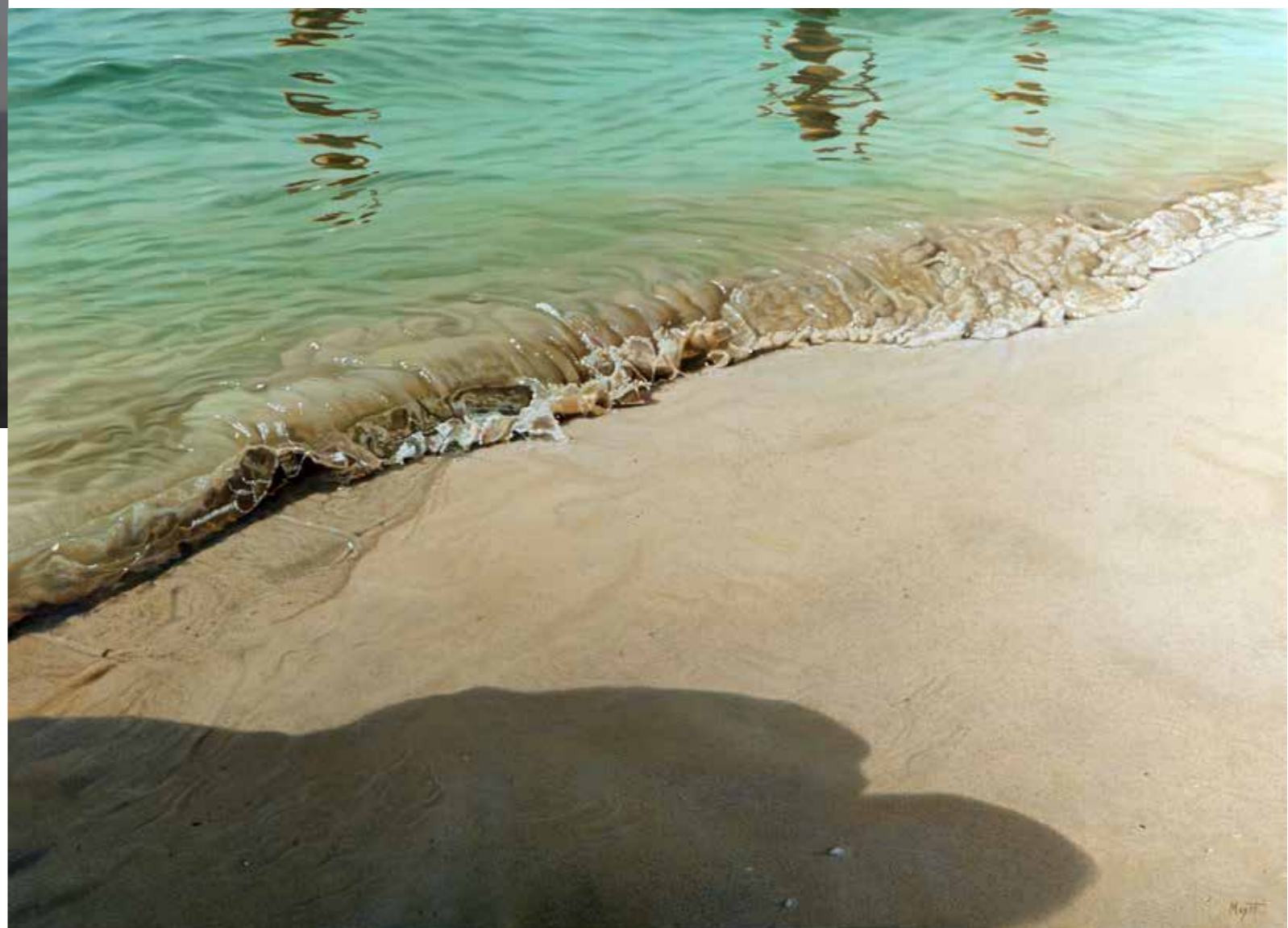




MAYET, Jorge
Entre Dos Aguas
Electric cable, paper
39 x 100 x 33 cm
Executed in 2008



MAYET, Jorge
Por el Mar se Fueron
Oil on canvas
65 x 100 cm
Executed in 2005



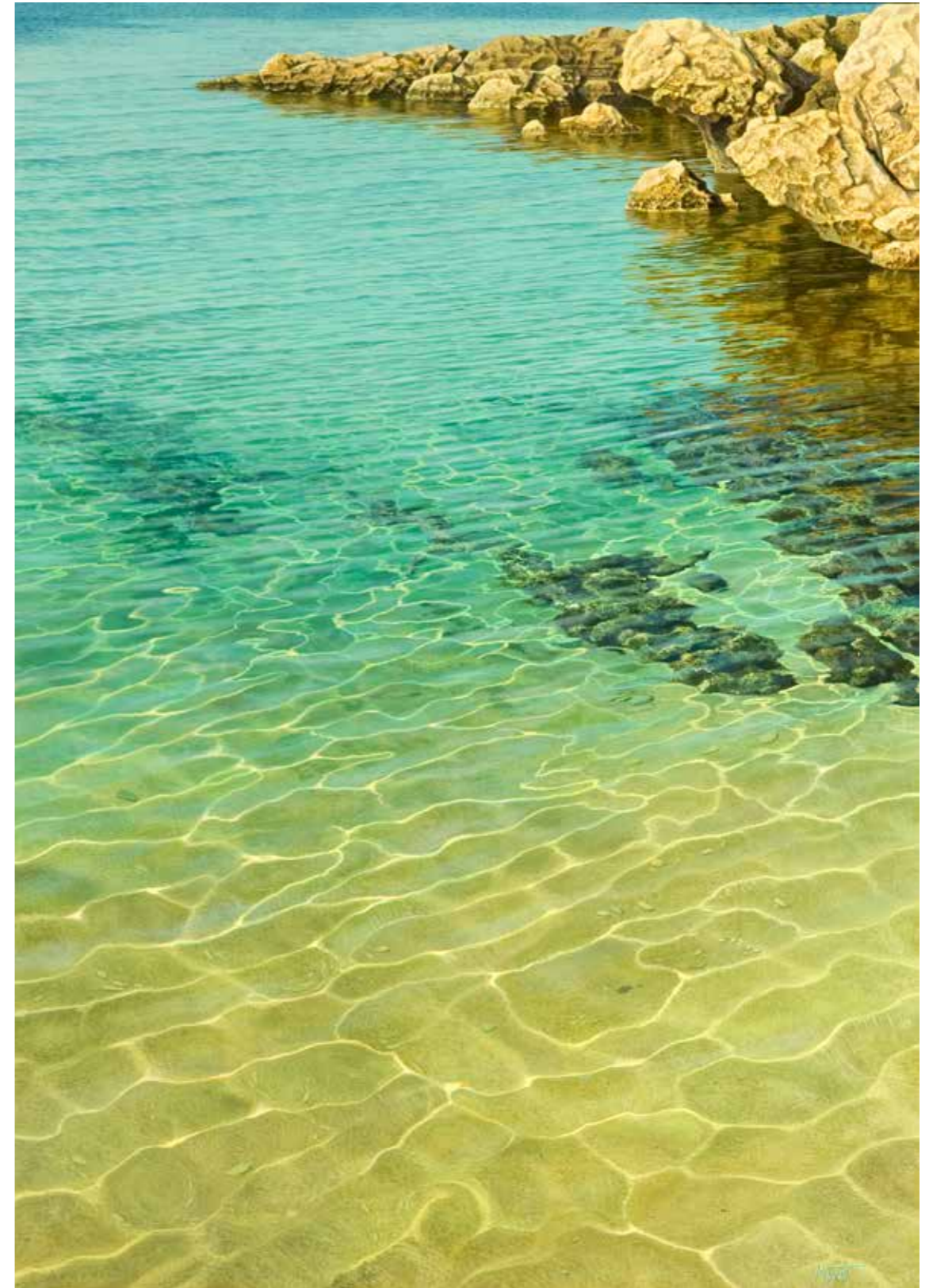
MAYET, Jorge
Untitled
Oil on canvas
73 x 100 cm



MAYET, Jorge
De Cada Vez Mas Lejos II
Oil on canvas
130 x 195 cm



MAYET, Jorge
I Feel Myself
Oil on canvas
100 x 65 cm
Executed in 2006



MAYET, Jorge
Untitled
Oil on canvas
92 x 65 cm
Executed in 2006



MAYET, Jorge
De Cada Vez Mas Lejos
Oil on canvas
130 x 195 cm



MAYET, Jorge
Untitled
Oil on canvas
97 x 146 cm



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