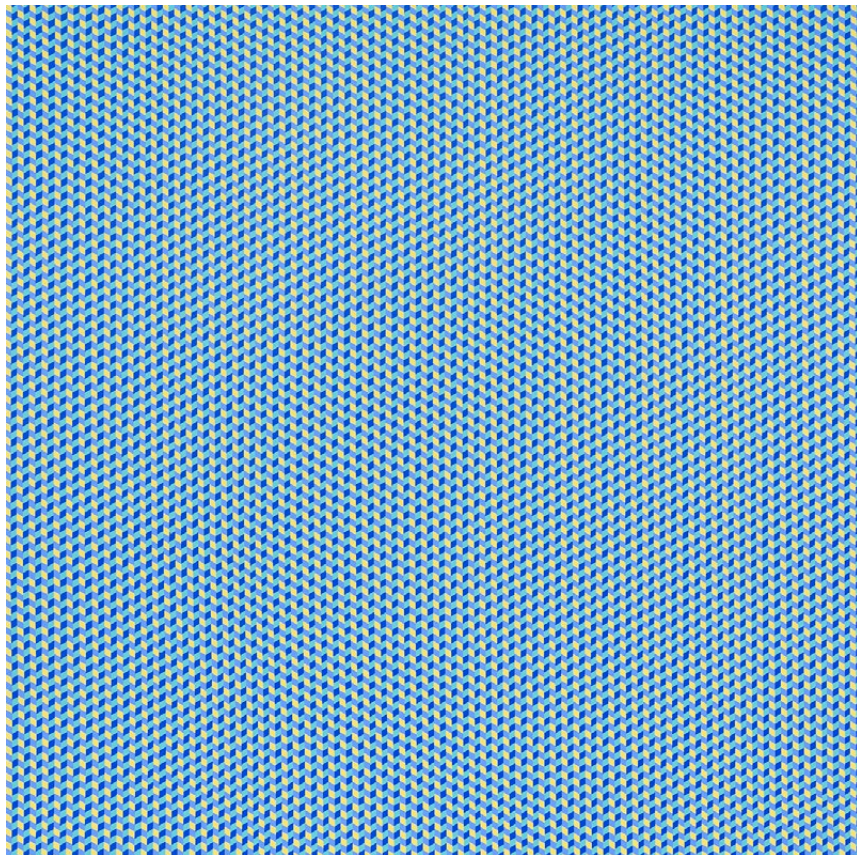




MONOCROMO

MARIANO FERRANTE



Monocromo N37/21, 2021, acrylic on canvas, 35 x 35 inches (88.9 x 88.9 cm)

A color is a space

In 2017, I began to work on these paintings as part of a research project starting with – more than a century after its first appearance in Europe in the mid 19th century – the analysis of pointillism. I explore the possibilities and alternatives of this pictorial approach, generating with its structure a new tool, a vector to analyze, stimulate and develop contemporary painting.

Pointillism defines a construction based on dots and the mix of color occurs in the eye of the beholder. This was groundbreaking at the time, but it is not the sole contribution of this movement. Pointillism offers other things to viewers, such as the possibility of drawing closer and stepping back; with the former one can discover the dots, small circles or strokes of almost primary colors, which then mix and intertwine to achieve a new color in our eyes; with the latter, a full image can be constructed. This near-far scenario, this entering and exiting the painting is something that I take and apply in my *Monocromo* works, as a way to explore the pictorial space.

Another innovative aspect of pointillism that I am interested in is a certain fascination for the technique, for the how-it-is-done. At a distance, a whole is perceived; up close, the trick, the magic is revealed, and the viewer is invited to take part in an experience of discovery.

Monocromo includes acrylic paintings, rigorous constructions made up of 6mm lines that form a pattern; the color palette is limited to only four colors. The methods and tools I use are strictly manual and analogue, in an attempt to pay tribute to the craft. Subtle alterations, apparent mistakes, are actually carefully thought decisions that expose the human trace, thereby accentuating the sensitivity present in each act of construction.

When observed from a distance, the paintings reveal color vibrations and a tone that physically does not exist. Our attempt to decode this information creates within us a new, unique, personal color.

I like to think of color as a space where painting expands our freedom, reason and feelings, and through which we return to the contemporary world in a better version of ourselves. I see and understand painting as a portal, a vehicle to another place, with all the potency this entails.

Mariano Ferrante, 2021

Un color es un espacio

En el año 2017 comencé a trabajar en estas pinturas que son parte de una investigación en la que tomo como punto de partida – luego de más de un siglo desde su aparición en Europa a fines del siglo XIX – el análisis de la propuesta pictórica del puntillismo. Exploro sus posibilidades y alternativas, generando con su estructura, una nueva herramienta, un vehículo que me permita analizar, estimular y desarrollar la pintura contemporánea.

El puntillismo plantea una construcción a partir del punto y la mezcla del color en el ojo del espectador; Esto era algo nuevo para ese entonces, pero no es su único aporte. El puntillismo propone otras situaciones al espectador, como la de acercarse y alejarse, ya que de lejos se construye una imagen y de cerca se descubren los puntos: pequeños círculos o pinceladas de colores casi primarios, que luego se mezclan y entrelazan logrando un nuevo color en nuestros ojos. Esta situación de acercamiento y alejamiento, de entrar y salir de la pintura es algo que tomo y aplico en mis *Monocromos*, como una manera de exploración del espacio pictórico.

Otra innovación del puntillismo que me interesa es esa cierta fascinación por lo técnico, por el cómo está hecho. A la distancia se percibe un todo, pero de cerca, se devela el truco, la magia, y se hace partícipe al espectador en una experiencia de descubrimiento.

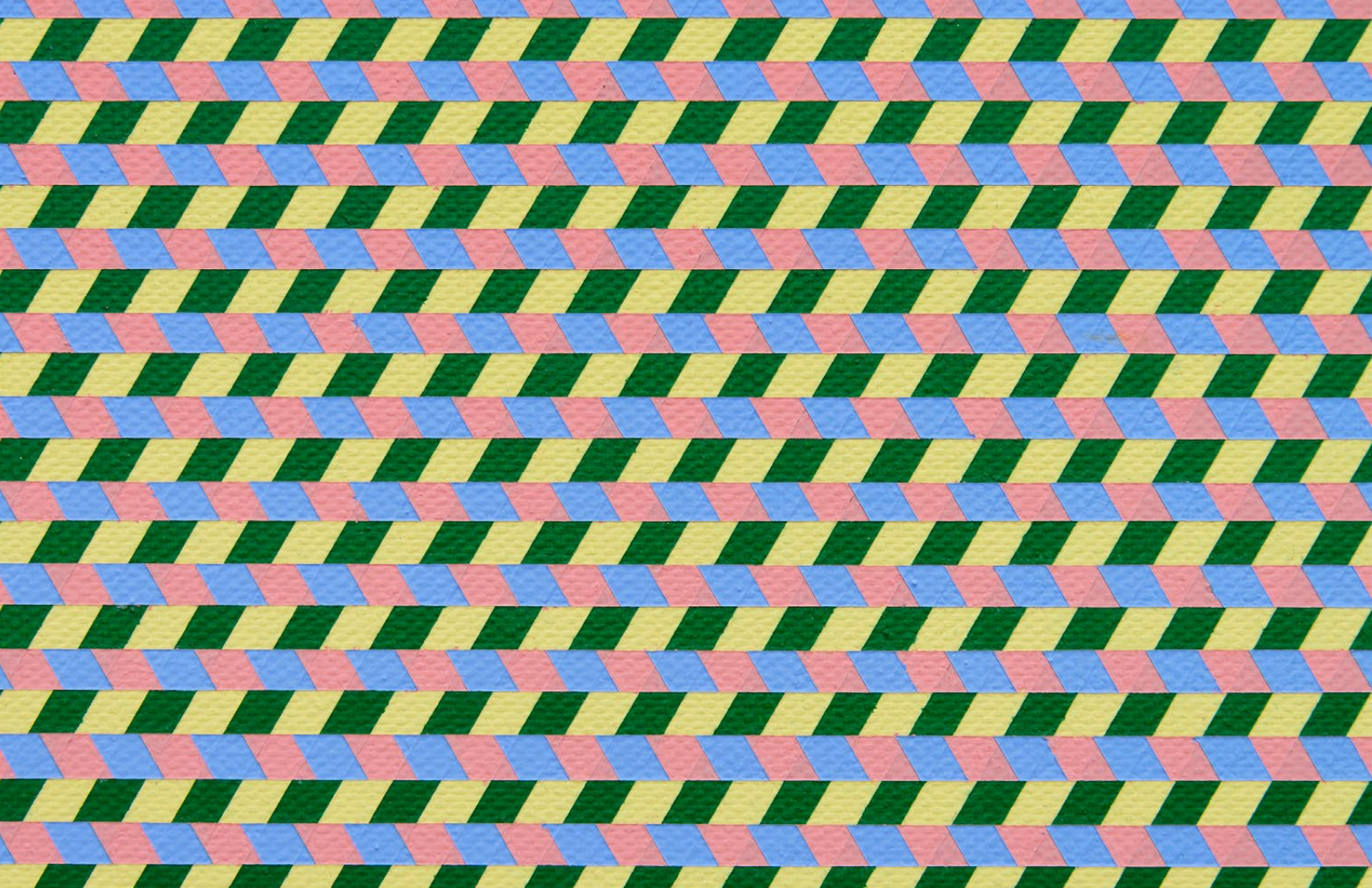
Mis *Monocromos* son pinturas acrílicas, construcciones rigurosas, compuestas por líneas de seis milímetros que forman una trama; la paleta es reducida, está compuesta sólo por cuatro colores. Los métodos y herramientas que utilizo son absolutamente manuales y analógicos, cultivando y valorizando el oficio. Sutiles alteraciones, aparentes errores, son, sin embargo, meditaciones decisiones que dejan en evidencia el rastro humano, acentuando la sensibilidad presente en cada acto de construcción.

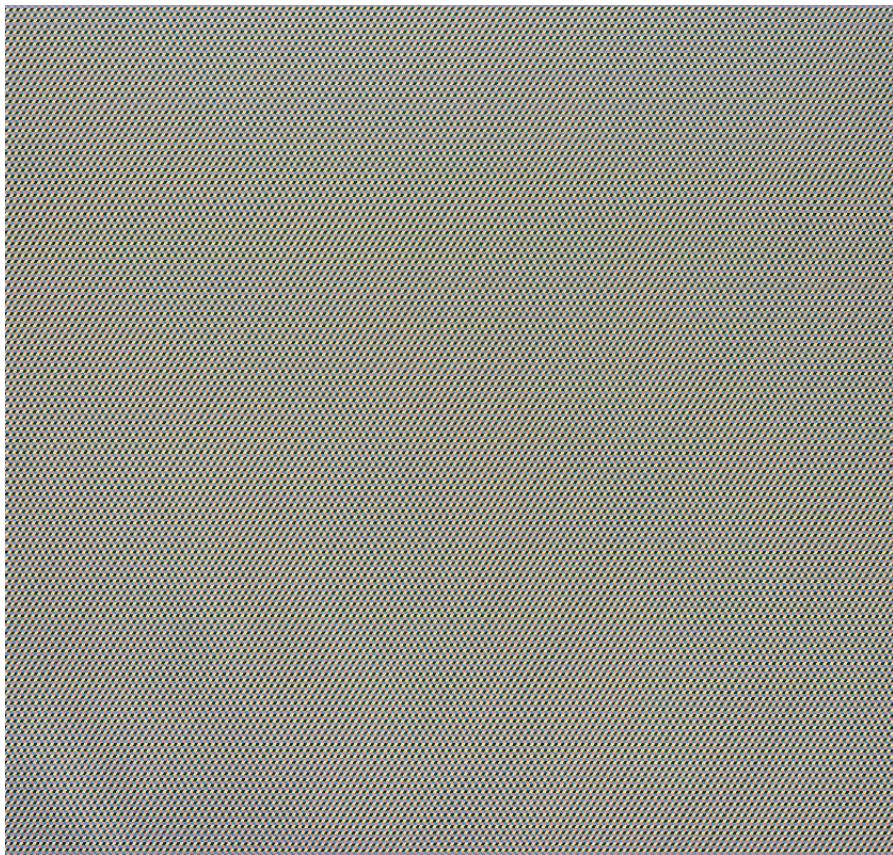
Cuando son vistas a cierta distancia, en las pinturas se perciben vibraciones de color, y un tono que físicamente no existe. Como resultado de nuestro intento de decodificar esta información, creamos dentro de nosotros un color, propio y único.

Me gusta pensar al color como un espacio a partir del cual la pintura expande nuestras libertades, la razón, el sentir, y nos devuelve mejores al mundo contemporáneo. Yo veo y entiendo a la pintura como una puerta, un vehículo hacia otro lugar, con todo el poder que eso significa.

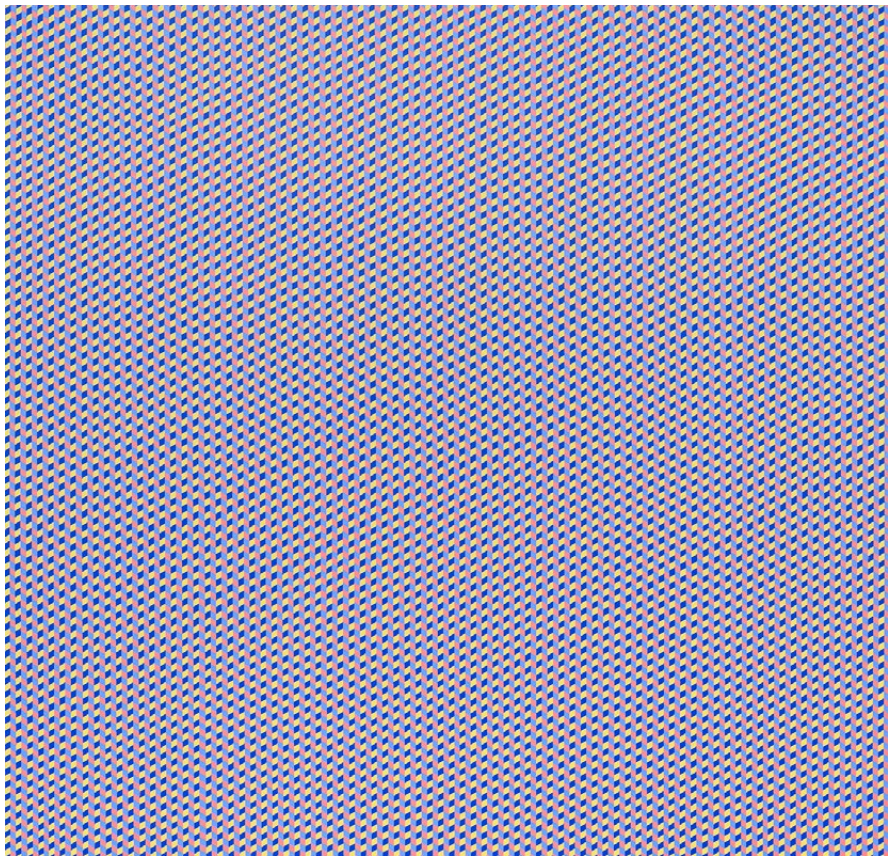


Installation view of *Mariano Ferrante: Monocromo* at Art Projects International, New York, 2021.

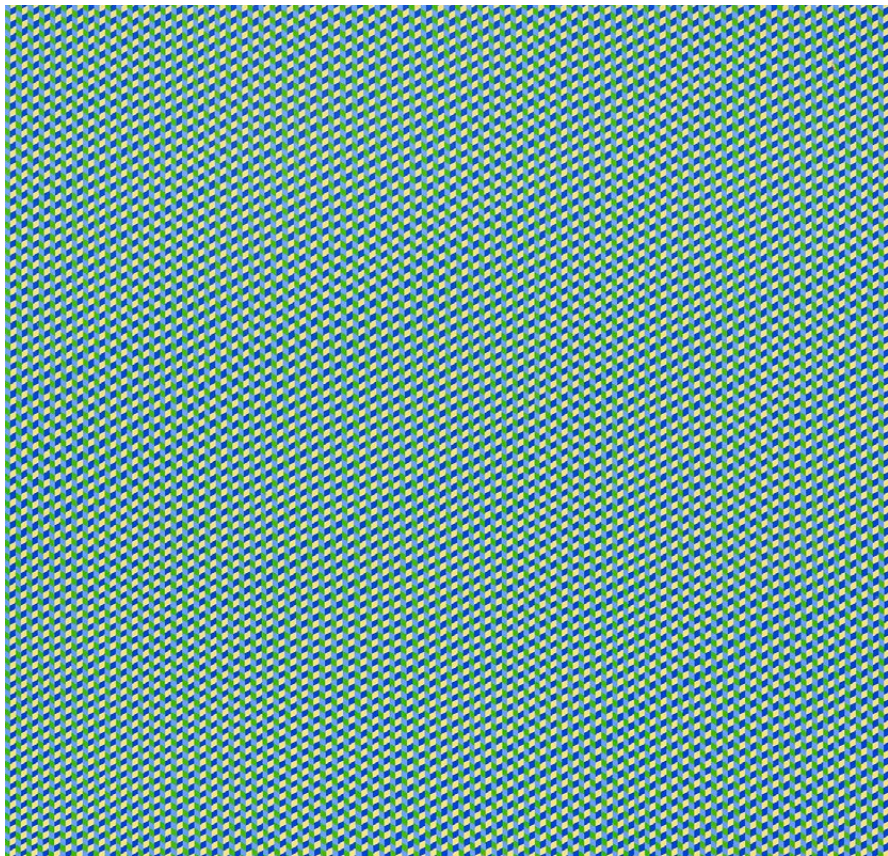




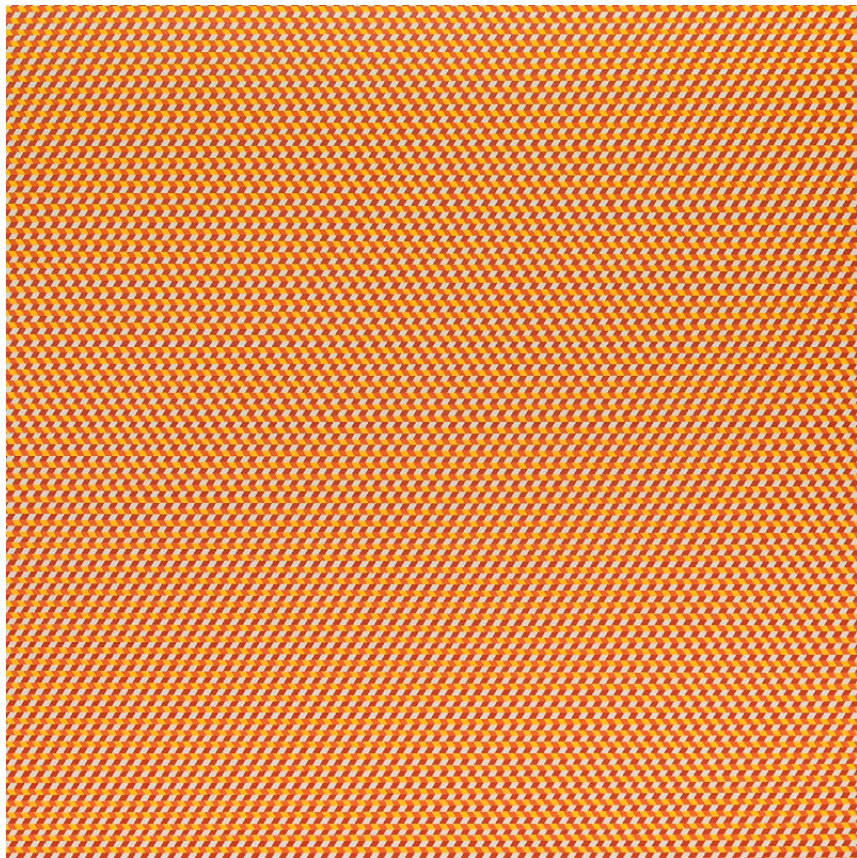
Monocromo N40/21, 2021, acrylic on canvas, 72 x 72 inches (182.9 x 182.9 cm)
Opposite page: *Monocromo N40/21* (detail)



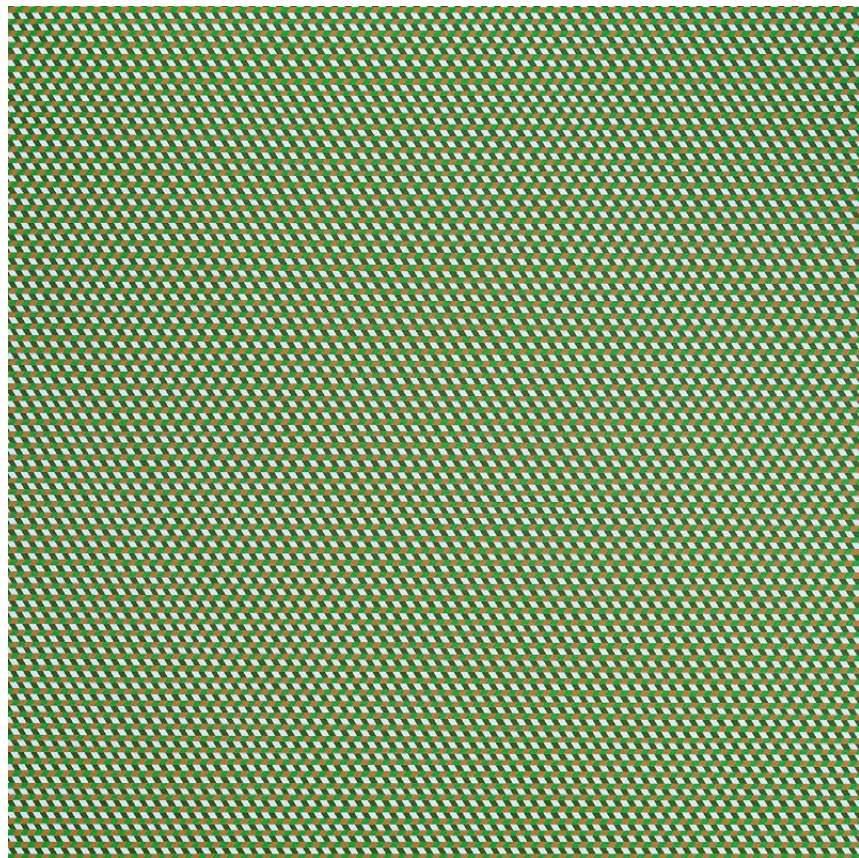
Monocromo N39/21, 2021, acrylic on canvas, 35 x 35 inches (88.9 x 88.9 cm)



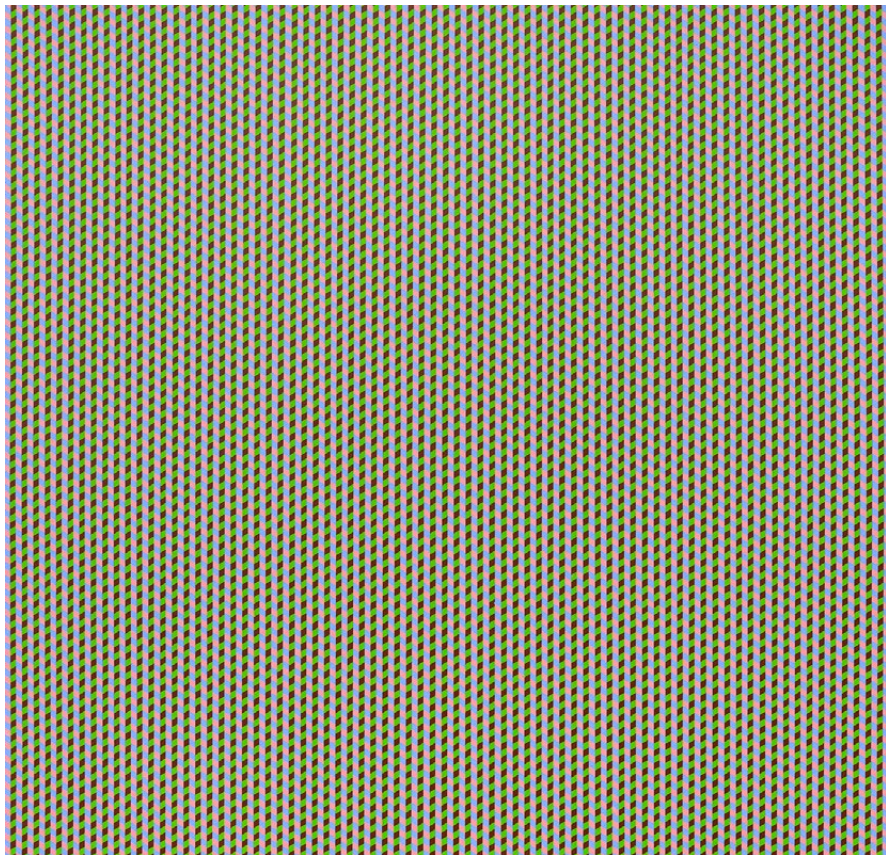
Monocromo N36/21, 2021, acrylic on canvas, 35 x 35 inches (88.9 x 88.9 cm)



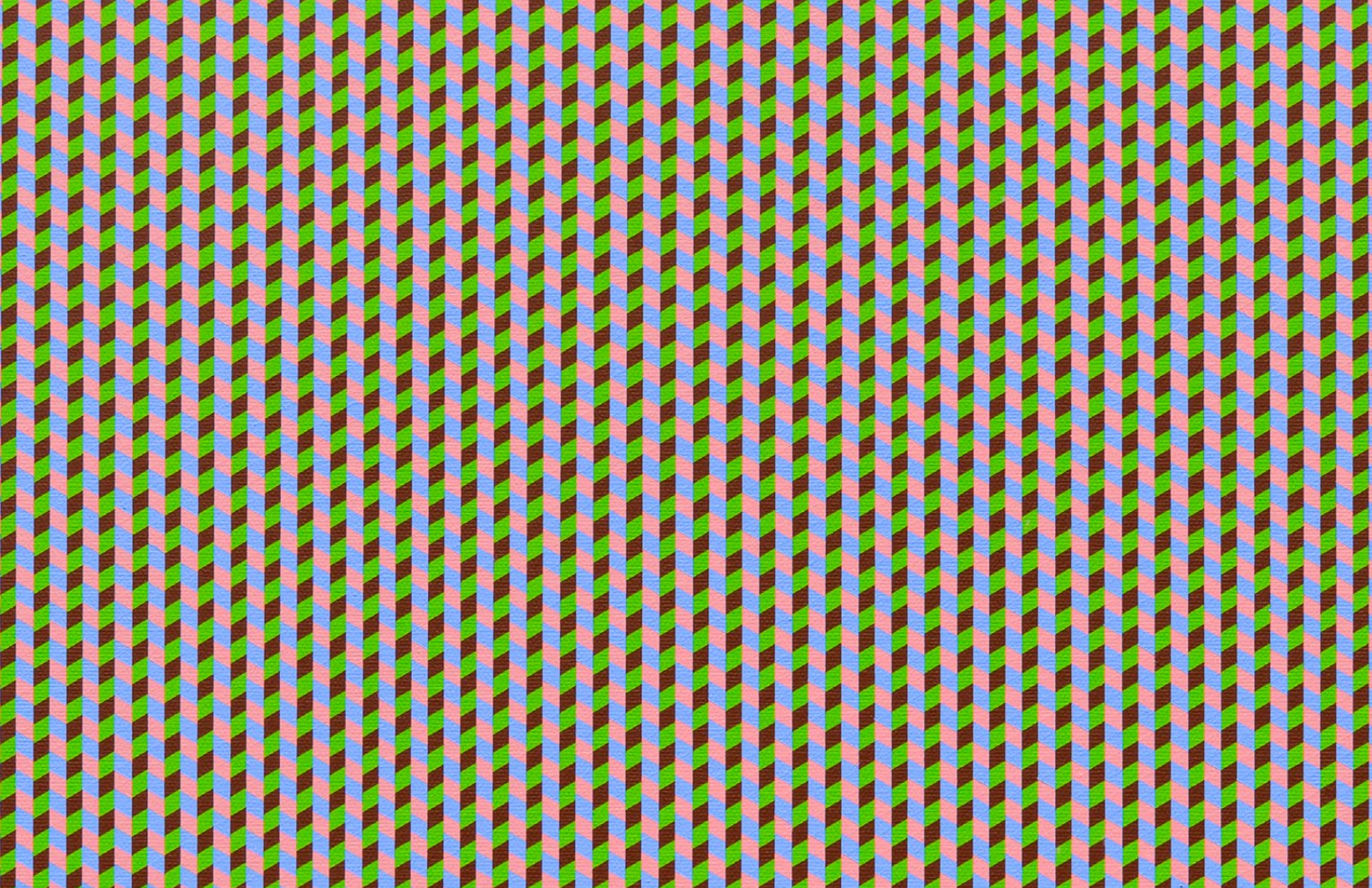
Monocromo N17/20, 2020, acrylic on canvas, 35 x 35 inches (88.9 x 88.9 cm)

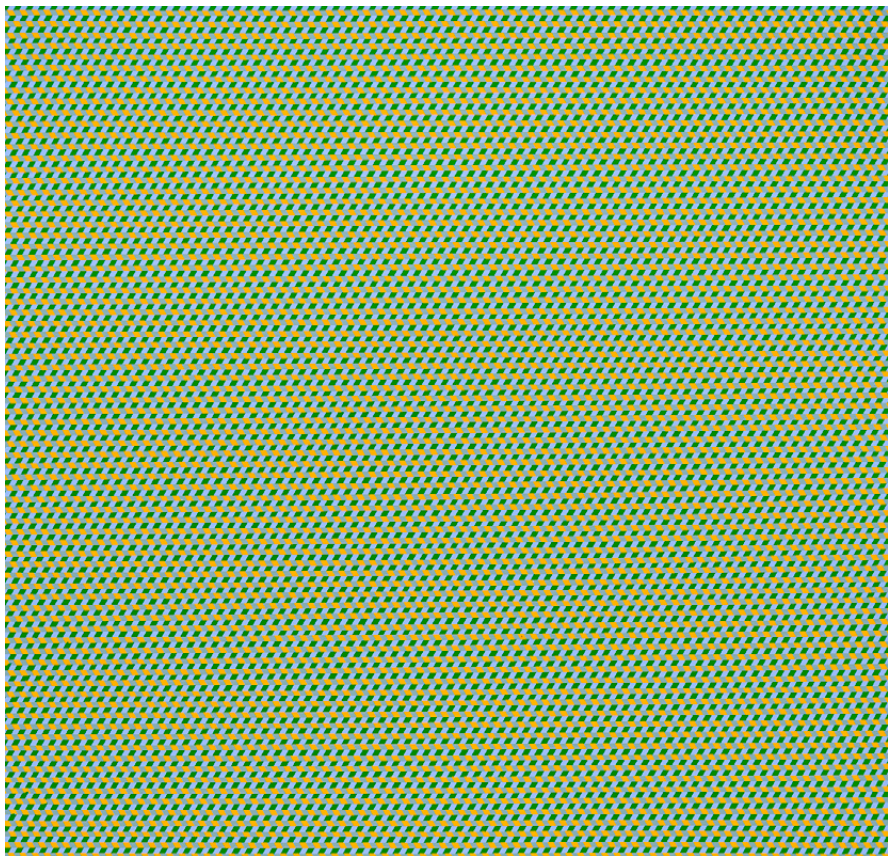


Monocromo N15/20, 2020, acrylic on canvas, 35 x 35 inches (88.9 x 88.9 cm)

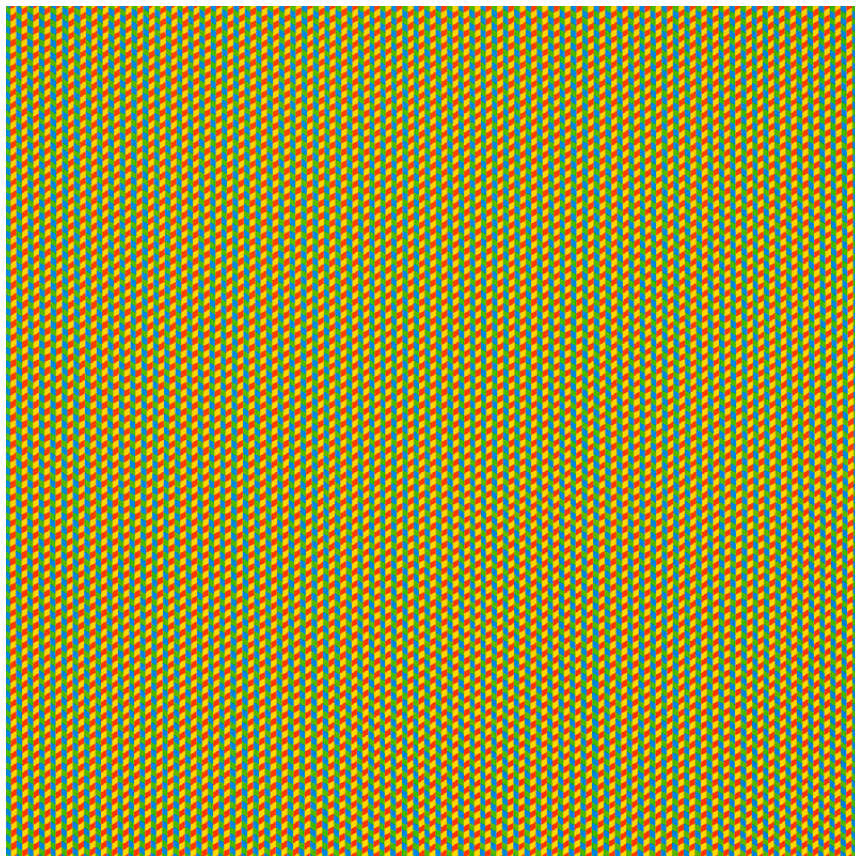


Monocromo N38/21, 2021, acrylic on canvas, 35 x 35 inches (88.9 x 88.9 cm)
Opposite page: *Monocromo N38/21* (detail)

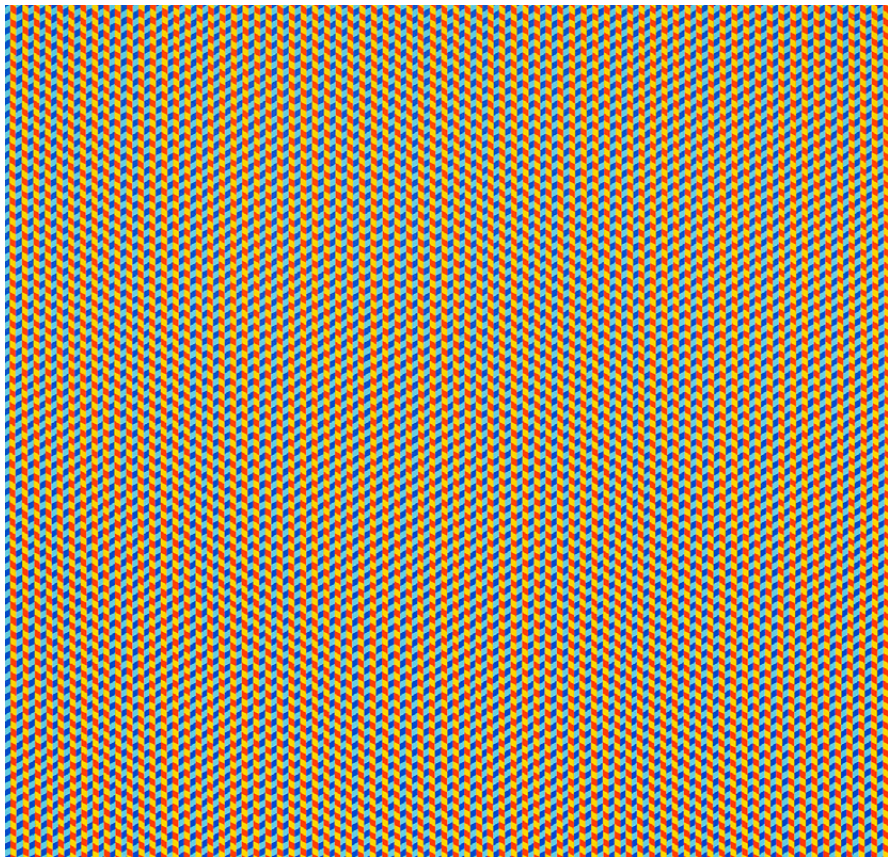




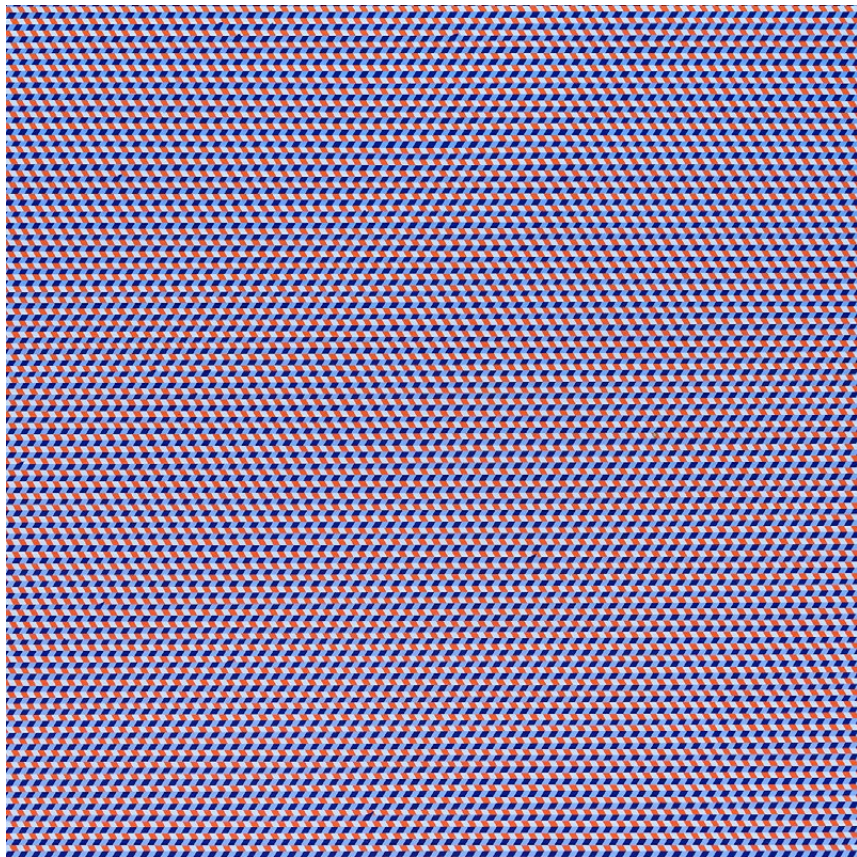
Monocromo N26/21, 2021, acrylic on canvas, 35 x 35 inches (88.9 x 88.9 cm)



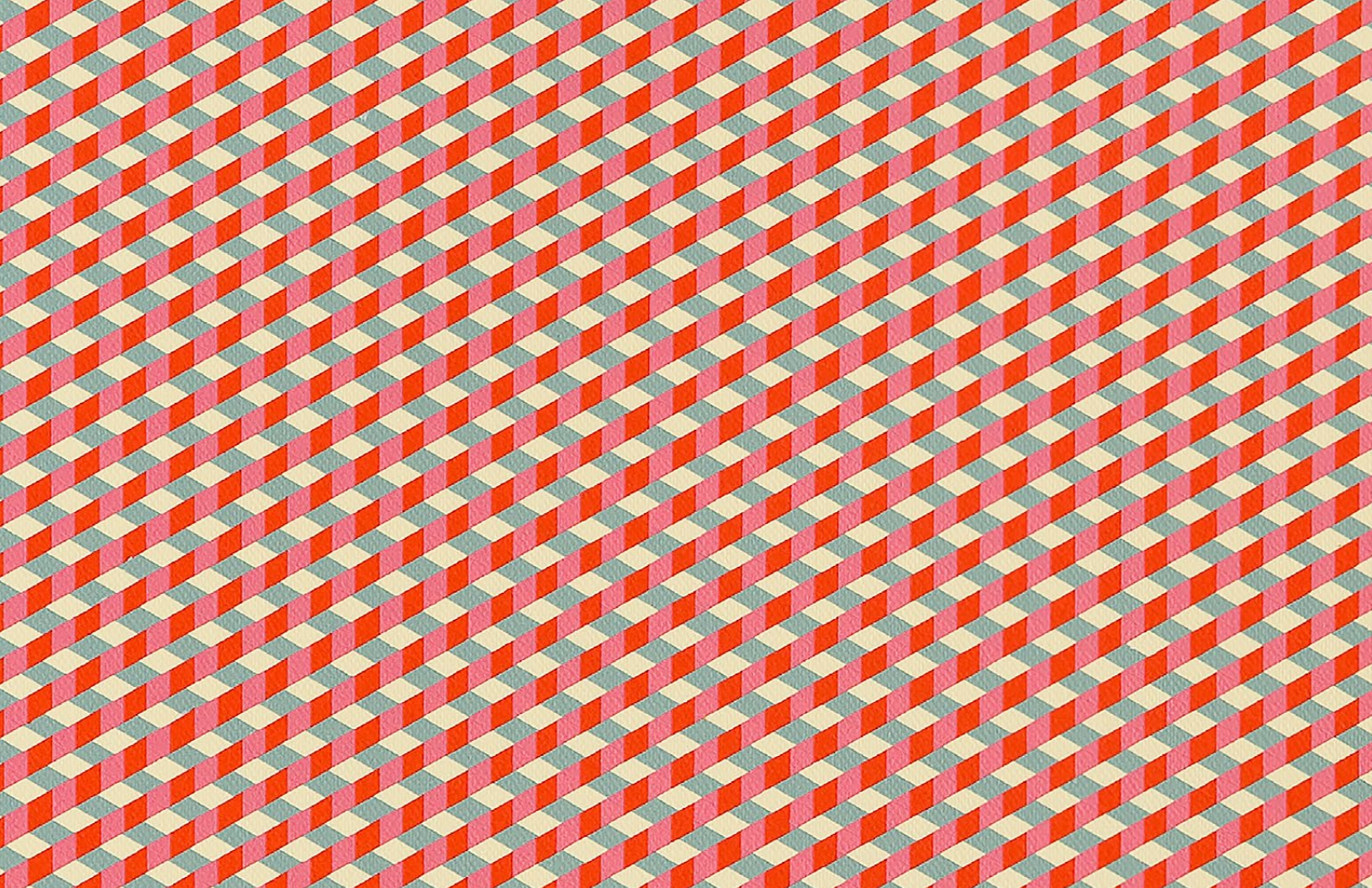
Monocromo N32/21, 2021, acrylic on canvas, 35 x 35 inches (88.9 x 88.9 cm)

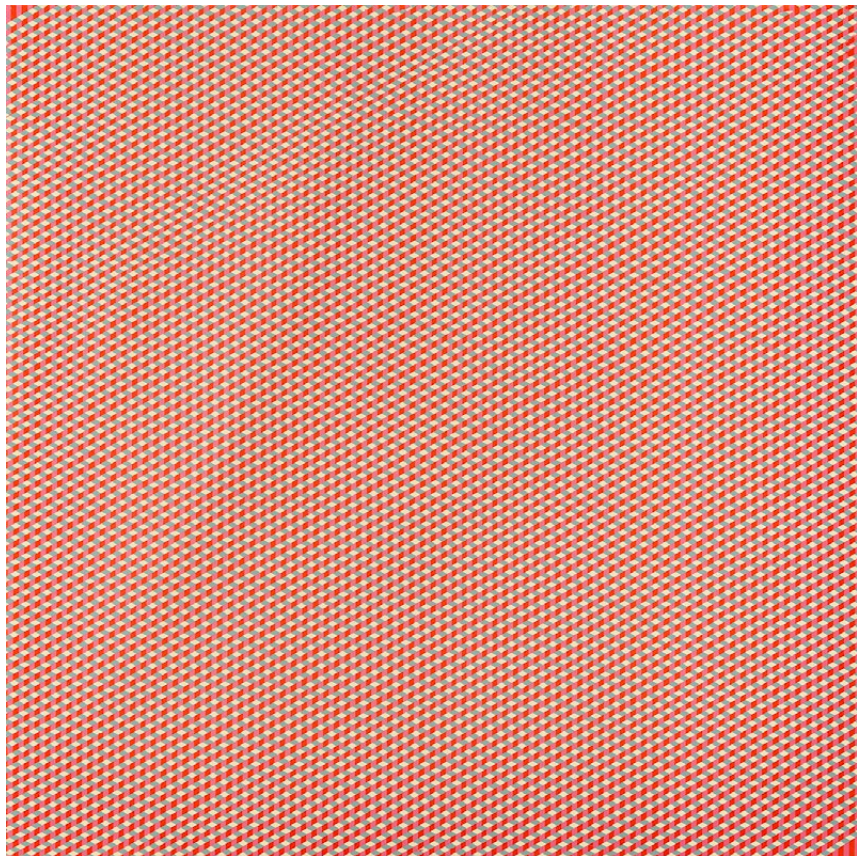


Monocromo N34/21, 2021, acrylic on canvas, 35 x 35 inches (88.9 x 88.9 cm)

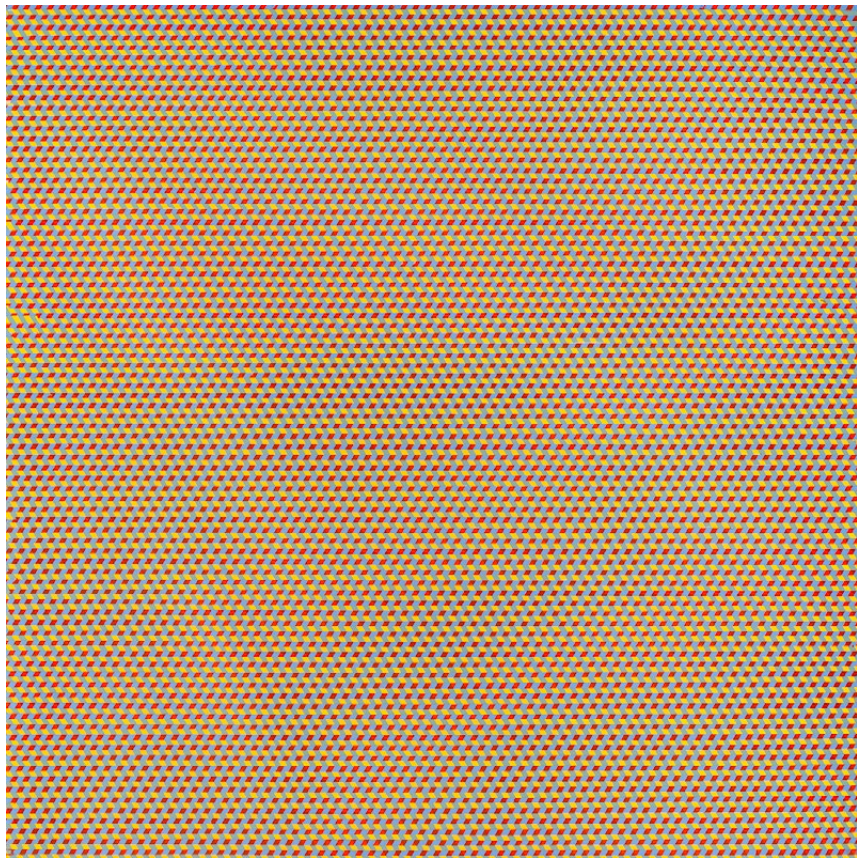


Monocromo 19/20, 2020, acrylic on canvas, 35 x 35 inches (88.9 x 88.9 cm)





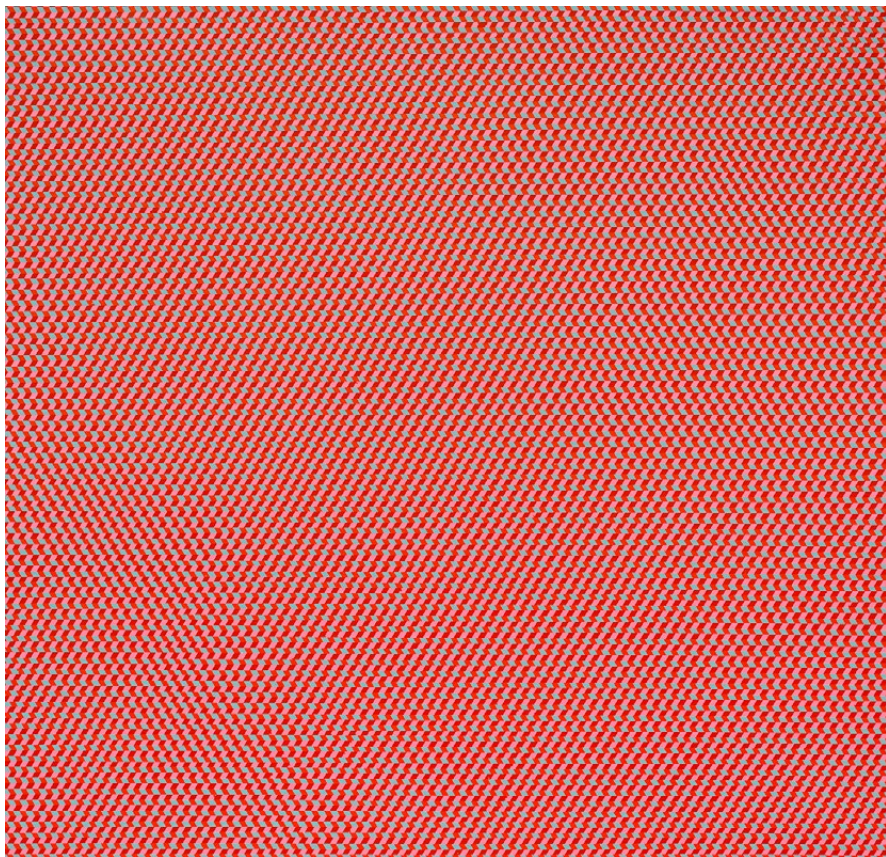
Monocromo N35/18, 2018, acrylic on canvas, 35 x 35 inches (88.9 x 88.9 cm)
Opposite page: *Monocromo N35/18* (detail)



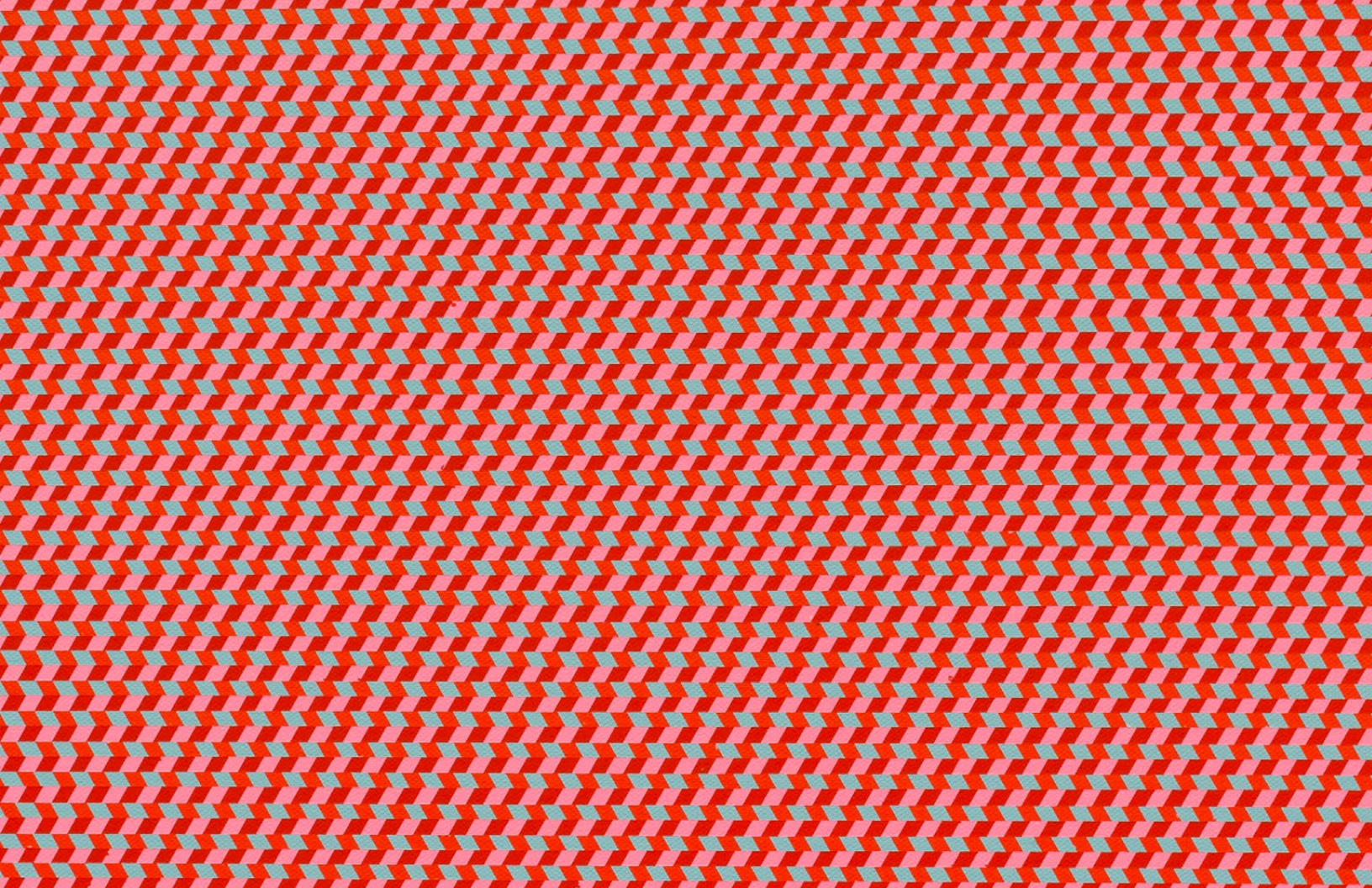
Monocromo N29/18, 2018, acrylic on canvas, 35 x 35 inches (88.9 x 88.9 cm)



Installation view of *Monocromo N29/18* and *Monocromo N35/18*



Monocromo N24/21, 2021, acrylic on canvas, 35 x 35 inches (88.9 x 88.9 cm)
Opposite page: *Monocromo N24/21* (detail)





Installation view of *Mariano Ferrante: Monocromo* at Art Projects International, New York, 2021.

MARIANO FERRANTE

Born 1974 in Bahía Blanca, Argentina.

Lives and works in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

EDUCATION

- 2003-2004 Contemporary Art Clinics, organized by artist Tulio de Sagastizábal, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 1998-2000 Architecture, Urbanism and Design School, Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata, Argentina
- 1995-1997 Martín A. Malharro School of Visual Arts, Mar del Plata, Argentina
- 1990-1995 School of Technical Education Nº 1, Mar del Plata, Argentina

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Mariano Ferrante: Monocromo*, Art Projects International, New York, NY
- 2020 *Mariano Ferrante Studies*, Art Projects International, New York, NY
- 2019 *Mariano Ferrante: New Work*, Art Projects International, New York, NY
- 2017 *Mariano Ferrante: Mirando el Mar*, 488 Gallery, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2016 *Mariano Ferrante: La Resonancia Interior*, Centro Cultural Recoleta, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2015 *Mariano Ferrante: Geometric Abstraction*, Puerta Roja, Hong Kong
Mariano Ferrante, Zavaleta Lab Arte Contemporáneo, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2013 *Mariano Ferrante: Dynamic Construction*, BOSI Contemporary, New York, NY
- 2012 *Mariano Ferrante: Acción en Movimiento*, Zavaleta Lab Arte Contemporáneo, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Mariano Ferrante: Elementos. Construcción Dinámica N 15/12, Centro Cultural Borges, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2009 *Mariano Ferrante: Persistente Conjunto*, Zavaleta Lab Arte Contemporáneo, Buenos Aires, Argentina

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Neo Post – 50 Años de Pintura Geométrica en Argentina 1970-2020*, curated by Rodrigo Alonso, Museum of Contemporary Art of Buenos Aires (MACBA), Argentina
- 2019 *Summer Selections*, Art Projects International, New York, NY
Vértigo, Geometría e Inestabilidad, Museum of Contemporary Art of Buenos Aires (MACBA), Argentina
Visions in Motion, Puerta Roja, Hong Kong
- 2018 *Movement*, Puerta Roja, Hong Kong
- 2016 *Sensorial Geometries*, Puerta Roja, Hong Kong
Diagonal Sur, Arte Argentino Hoy, Centro Cultural Borges, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2015 *Cruzar la Línea*, Fundación ICBC, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2012 *Interventions, Dynamic Construction N 46/12*, Contemporary Space, National Museum of Fine Arts (MNBA), Buenos Aires, Argentina
Nuevas Tendencias II, Museum of Modern Art of Buenos Aires (MAMBA), Argentina
Geométricos Hoy, Museum of Contemporary Art of Buenos Aires (MACBA), Argentina
- 2011 *Site Specific Dibujo*, Museum of Contemporary Art of Buenos Aires (MACBA), Argentina
- 2010 *RAM*, Contemporary Space, Fundación PROA, Buenos Aires, Argentina

SITE-SPECIFIC INSTALLATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMISSIONS

- 2021 *Monocromía en cuatro colores Nro 2*, Centro Cultural Córdoba, Argentina
- 2020 *Polyphony of Four Colors*, commissioned by the City of Buenos Aires, Sala de Camara, Usina del Arte, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Site-specific installation, Forum Aventura, Aventura, FL
- 2019 *Transformations N1/2019*, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church Day School, New York, NY
- 2016 *Partitura para Exterior N 27/16*, Tecnópolis (Arts, Science and Technology Center), Buenos Aires, Argentina

- 2015 *Cosmorama*, 2009/2015, public commission, Belgrano Subway Station, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2012 *Dynamic Construction N 51/12*, commission by the City of Buenos Aires for the *Modern and Contemporary Latin American Art Show*, PINTA, New York, NY
- 2010 Mural, Carlos Pellegrini Building, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Mural, Ciudad Cultural Konex, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2009 Mural, Centro Cultural de España, Buenos Aires, Argentina

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND AWARDS

- 2018 The 5th International ANDRÉ EVARD Art Award, Kunsthalle Messmer, Germany
- 2017 *¿Quién está dónde? Who Is Where?*, art exhibition and residency in Basel, Switzerland
- 2011 *Rivers of the World*, through the British Council
- 2009 Creators' Grant in Visual Arts, Metropolitan Fund for Culture, Art and Science, Buenos Aires, Argentina

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Bakke, Erik. *Mariano Ferrante: Studies*. Exhibition catalogue. New York: Art Projects International, 2020.
- Hutchinson, Isabella and Susan Breyer. *Mariano Ferrante*. Exhibition catalogue. New York: Art Projects International, 2019.
- Ferrante, Mariano, ed. *Ferrante 2004/2018*, 1st edition. Interview with Mariano Ferrante by Gabriela Urtiaga. Buenos Aires: Mariano Andrés Ferrante, 2018.
- Stupía, Eduardo; Cecilia Rabossi; and Santiago Bengolea. *Mariano Ferrante: Geometric Abstraction*. Exhibition catalogue. Foreword by Adriana Alvarez-Nichol. Hong Kong: Puerta Roja, 2015.
- Bengolea, Santiago. *Mariano Ferrante*. Exhibition catalogue. Buenos Aires: Zavaleta Lab Arte Contemporáneo, 2015.
- Rabossi, Cecilia. *Mariano Ferrante: Acción en Movimiento*. Exhibition catalogue. Buenos Aires: Zavaleta Lab Arte Contemporáneo, 2012.

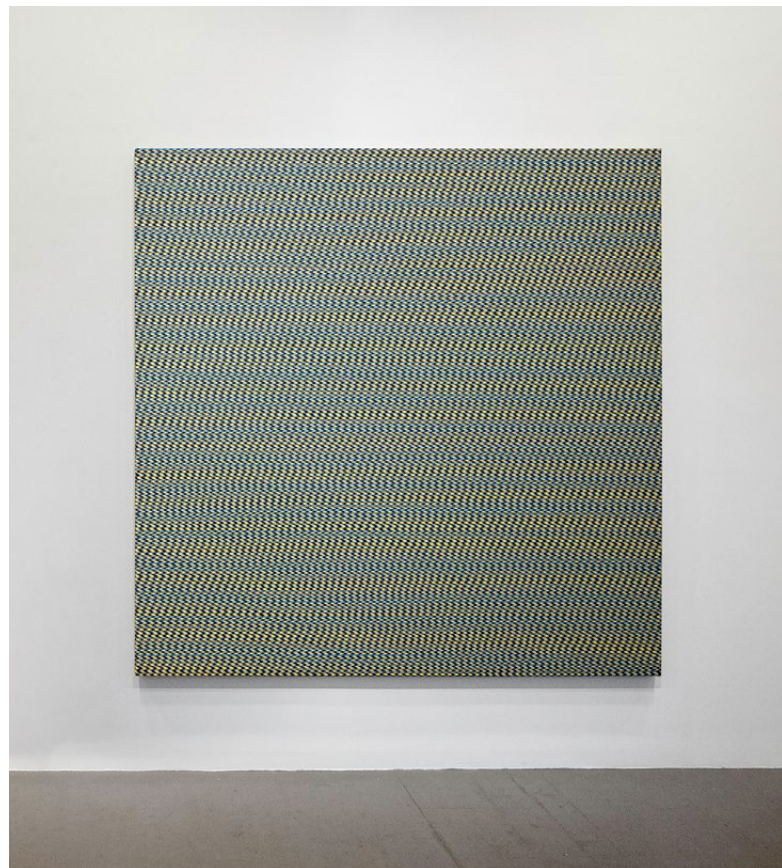
- Burgos, Fabian. *Mariano Ferrante: Persistente Conjunto*. Exhibition catalogue. Buenos Aires: Zavaleta Lab Arte Contemporáneo, 2009.
- Stupía, Eduardo. *Mariano Ferrante*. Exhibition catalogue. Buenos Aires: Centro Cultural Recoleta. 2009.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bakke, Erik. "Art Projects International opens an exhibition of works by Mariano Ferrante." *Artdaily* (New York), September 8, 2020.
- Pasik, Daniela. "Arte público: cinco obras que están a la mano y a veces no vemos." *Clarín* (Buenos Aires), August 17, 2019.
- "En el Malba, Juliana Awada presentó a los acompañantes de líderes del G20 un plan para la infancia." *La Nación* (Buenos Aires), December 1, 2018.
- Chatruc, Celina. "Sin Fronteras. El mapa de los artistas." *La Nación* (Buenos Aires), April 16, 2017.
- "Q&A: Mariano Ferrante – Geometric Abstraction." Interview with Mariano Ferrante by Emma Russell. *Time Out Hong Kong*, November 12, 2015.
- Bian, Ka Shu. "South American Artist Creates Geometric Abstract Art." *Ta Kung Pao* (Hong Kong), November 11, 2015. Review.
- Gonzalez Taboada, Guillermo. "Mariano Ferrante: esa geometría esta viva." *ArtDemocracy* (Buenos Aires), no. 9, October 2015.
- "El MNBA tiene nuevo espacio de arte." *Revista Ñ, Clarín* (Buenos Aires), September 12, 2012.
- "Los Geométricos de hoy en la Argentina." *Revista Ñ, Clarín* (Buenos Aires), June 13, 2012.
- "Un árbol de sueños para los pibes de la Boca." *Diario Clarín* (Buenos Aires), December 22, 2009.

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

- Museum of Contemporary Art of Buenos Aires (MACBA), Argentina
- Francis J. Greenburger Collection, New York
- Montefiore Fine Art Collection, New York
- Union Industrial Argentina, Buenos Aires, Argentina



Published on the occasion of the
exhibition *Mariano Ferrante: Monocromo*
presented at Art Projects International
September 21 – November 20, 2021

Cover: *Monocromo N37/21* (detail), 2021
acrylic on canvas, 35 x 35 inches

Left: Installation view of
Monocromo N8/17, (2017, acrylic on canvas,
72 x 72 inches, 182.9 x 182.9 cm)

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