


MART AIRE — 13.08.22
ARTIST IN RESIDENCE, SOLO SHOW

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19 KAREN CONTEMPORARY ARTSPACE
AUSTRALIA



Al sur Mart Aire

**Artist in residency
solo show**



Artist in residency:

“People say I’m fortunate to do what I love. I’m not fortunate. It’s a decision I make every day, to be an artist.”

Argentinian artist, Mart Aire, admits he paints the art he feels not the art he likes. He prefers the work of artists that take him back to his graffiti roots. Although as he walks poignantly around the 19Karen stockroom running a curious finger along the rows of paintings he meets along the way, Mart grins broadly and confesses that it is not visual art that inspires him at all. “I like to watch theatre” he admits, “That’s what inspires me. And, talking to people I meet by chance. The characters. Life.” It occurs to me how obvious this is, that this artist, whose whimsical yet confident work hinges on both the vitality and significance of the characters within it, would be motivated by story and the serendipitous encounters he has with other humans.

His early shift from graffiti to urban mural work was motivated by Mart’s initial dalliances with yoga and contemporary dance, a relationship that he explains created awareness of the limitations of graffiti as an artform and language. “Only graffiti writers knew what I was saying by using a certain line. Graffiti is a closed movement. Murals are for everybody. A universal language.”

What Mart’s studio collectors keep coming back for, has less to do with what he masterfully paints and more to do with where he inexplicably takes you. He creates realms and his paintings are portals into them, luring you into such a highly imaginative, highly emotive experience that his subjects almost stroll off the canvas; like theatre.

This is no more evident than in his early mural work featuring his “oversized, flat-tired bicycles” being ridden by whimsical characters that seem to pedal straight onto the sidewalk. Having been received with such acclaim, I asked Mart how his renowned bicycle murals came to be. “In 2010 I was commissioned to work on a building that was being transformed into a Cultural Centre in Buenos Aires. It was a very old official building that was an orphanage over a century ago. As I looked at the building and through its rounded, arched windows, I imagined the lives of these children. I was reminded of my own childhood and how I would ride around everywhere on my bicycle. I wanted to mark the building with the life that these children were entitled to.”

Like his mural work, Mart’s current studio work is ever evolving. The artist admits he enjoys pushing his creative growth edge. “Almost my entire life, I have been painting. Over that time, I have changed of course, and I need to represent that in my work.” This desire to expand his creative reality has seen him play with size, composition, and colour naturally, but it’s his commitment, his decision to be an artist, that has seen this tenacity extend to experiment with other sensory elements like collage, sculpture, woodwork, the two dimensional and the three dimensional. For his upcoming show at the gallery Mart intends to widen this scope yet again, working with acrylic sculpture for the first time to prove to no-one but himself, just how far his creative edge can be pushed.

“I deliver the art that is in me to deliver, understanding that while I might be inspired by someone else’s art, that same someone might be inspired by mine. It is a balance. Harmony.”

Aptly titled “Al Sur -To the South”, Mart Aire’s first solo exhibition in Australia chronicles the artists creative affinity with his native South America and our very own land down under.

- Written By Monique Di Russo





Al sur Mart Aire

Catalogue



UN NUEVO DIA

Mixed media on canvas
150 x 120 cm

\$5900



LA PIEL CERCA

Mixed media on canvas
150 x 120 cm

\$5900



LA INVITACIÓN

Mixed media on canvas
150 x 120 cm

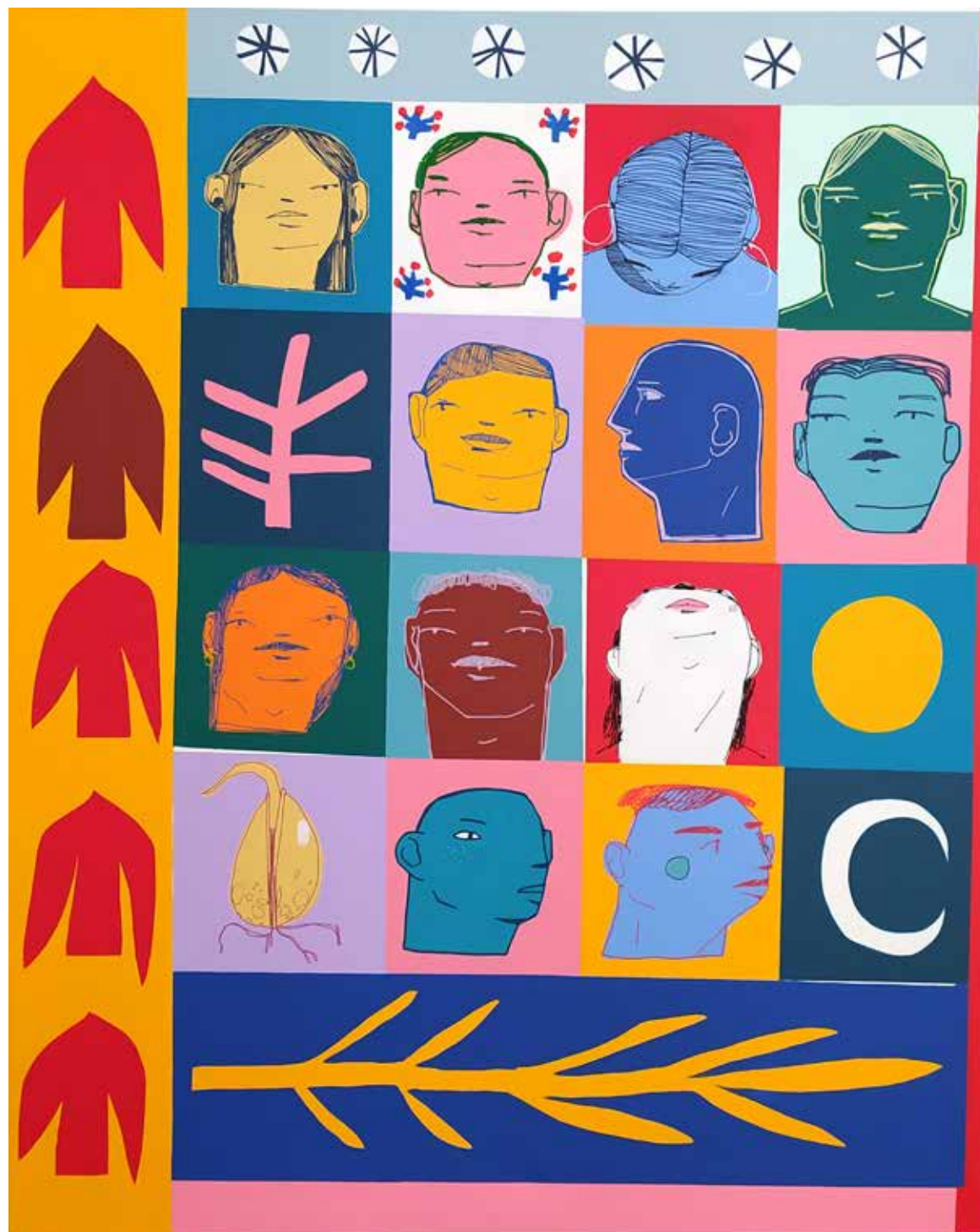
\$5900



DAMA DE LUNA

Mixed media on canvas
137 X 107 cm

\$5700



COMUNIDAD

Mixed media on canvas
150 x 120 cm

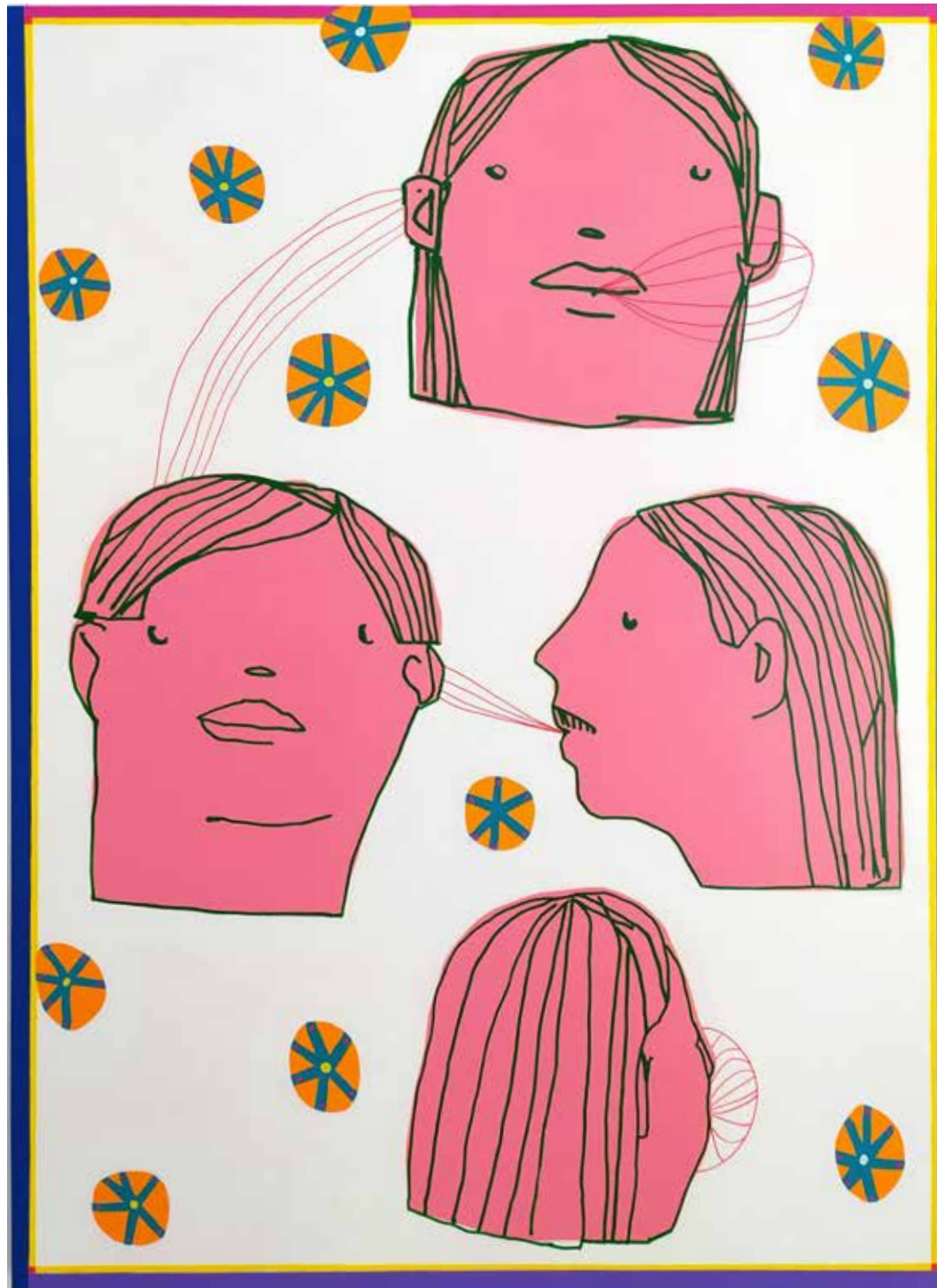
\$5900



AL SUR

Mixed media on canvas
167 x 142 cm

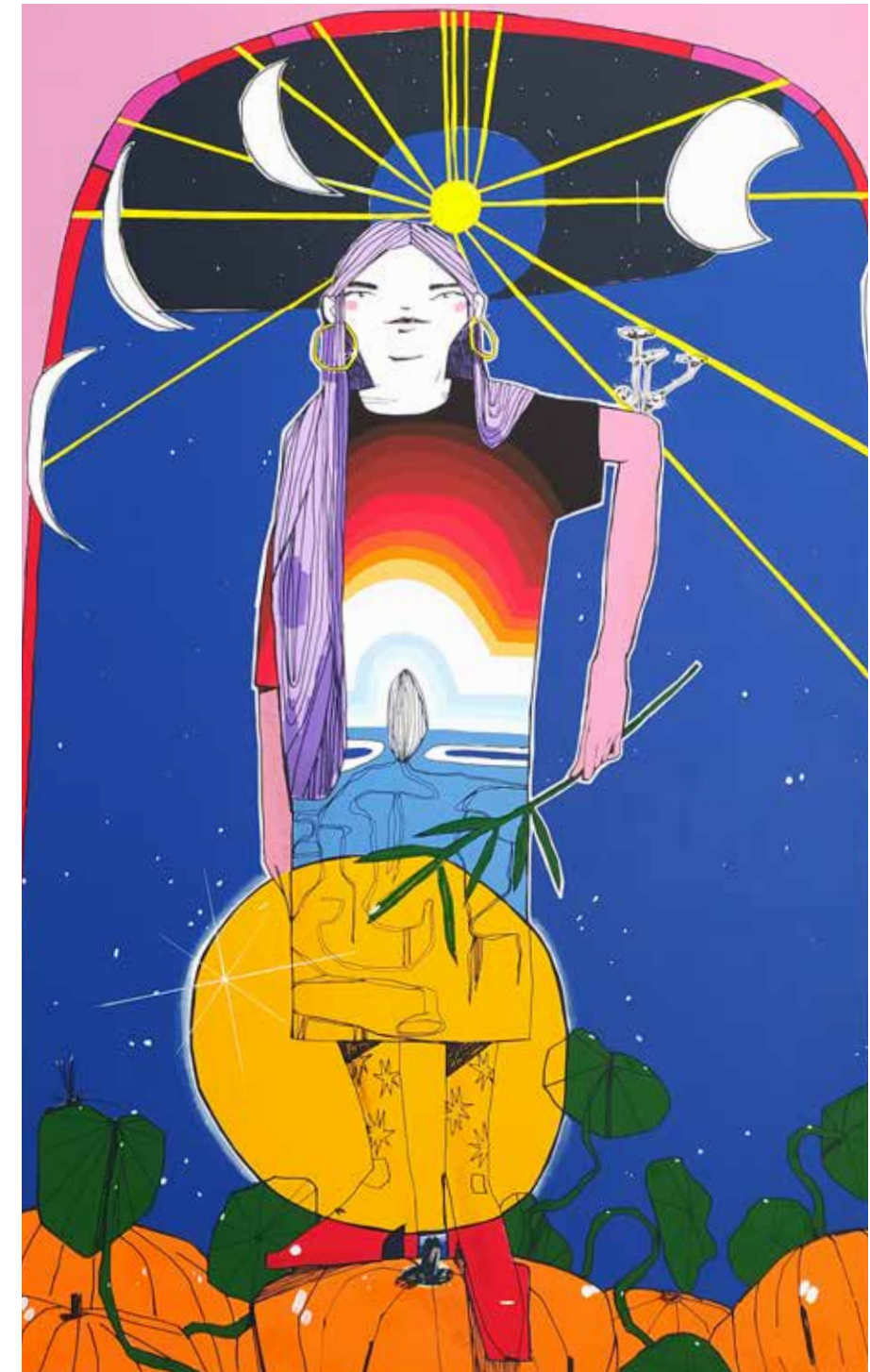
\$6300



DIÁLOGO

Mixed media on canvas
140 x 100 cm

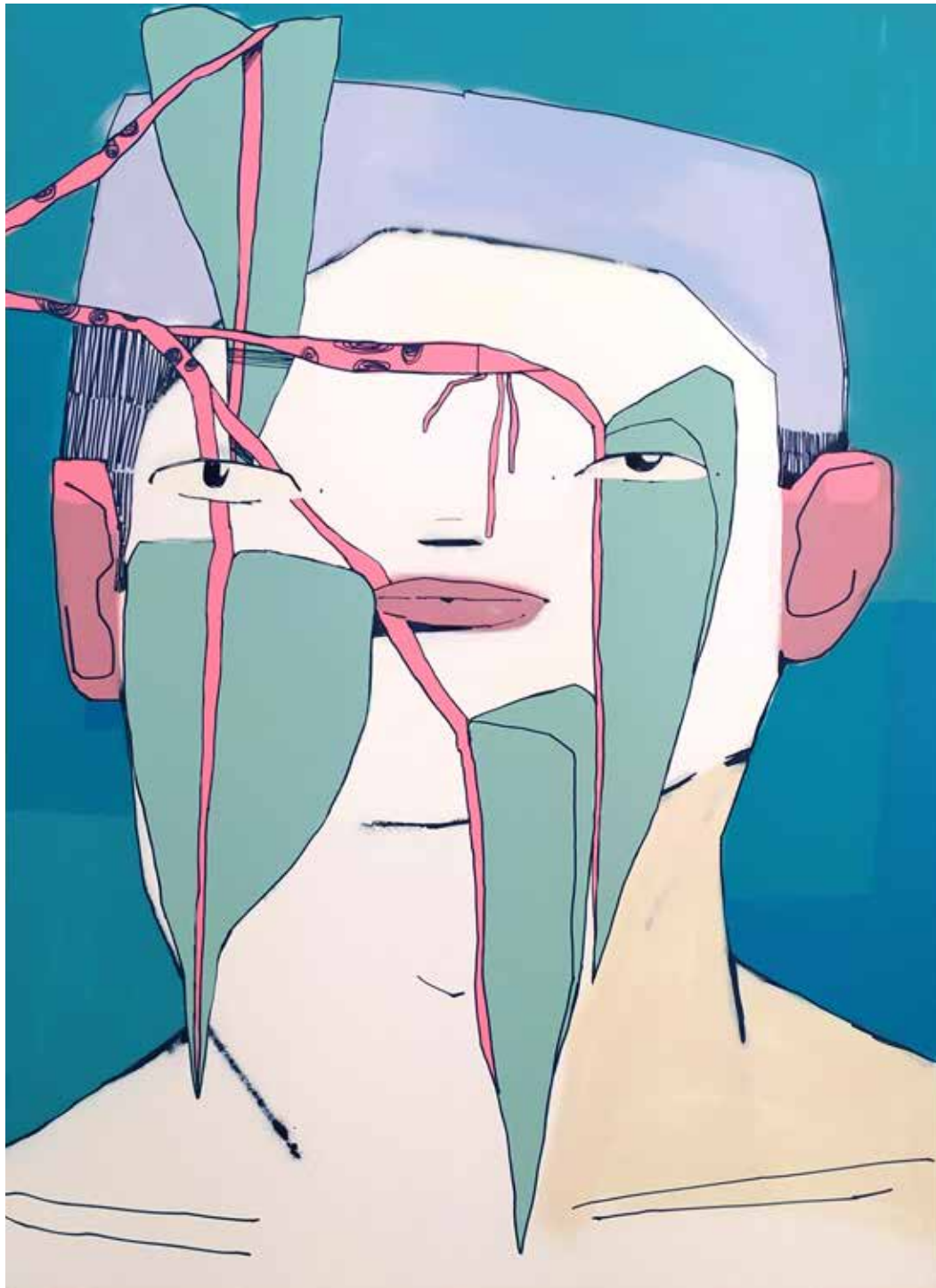
\$4900



LA GUARDIANA DE LA COSECHA

Mixed media on canvas
190 x 120 cm

\$7700



BROTAR

Mixed media on canvas
113 x 83 cm

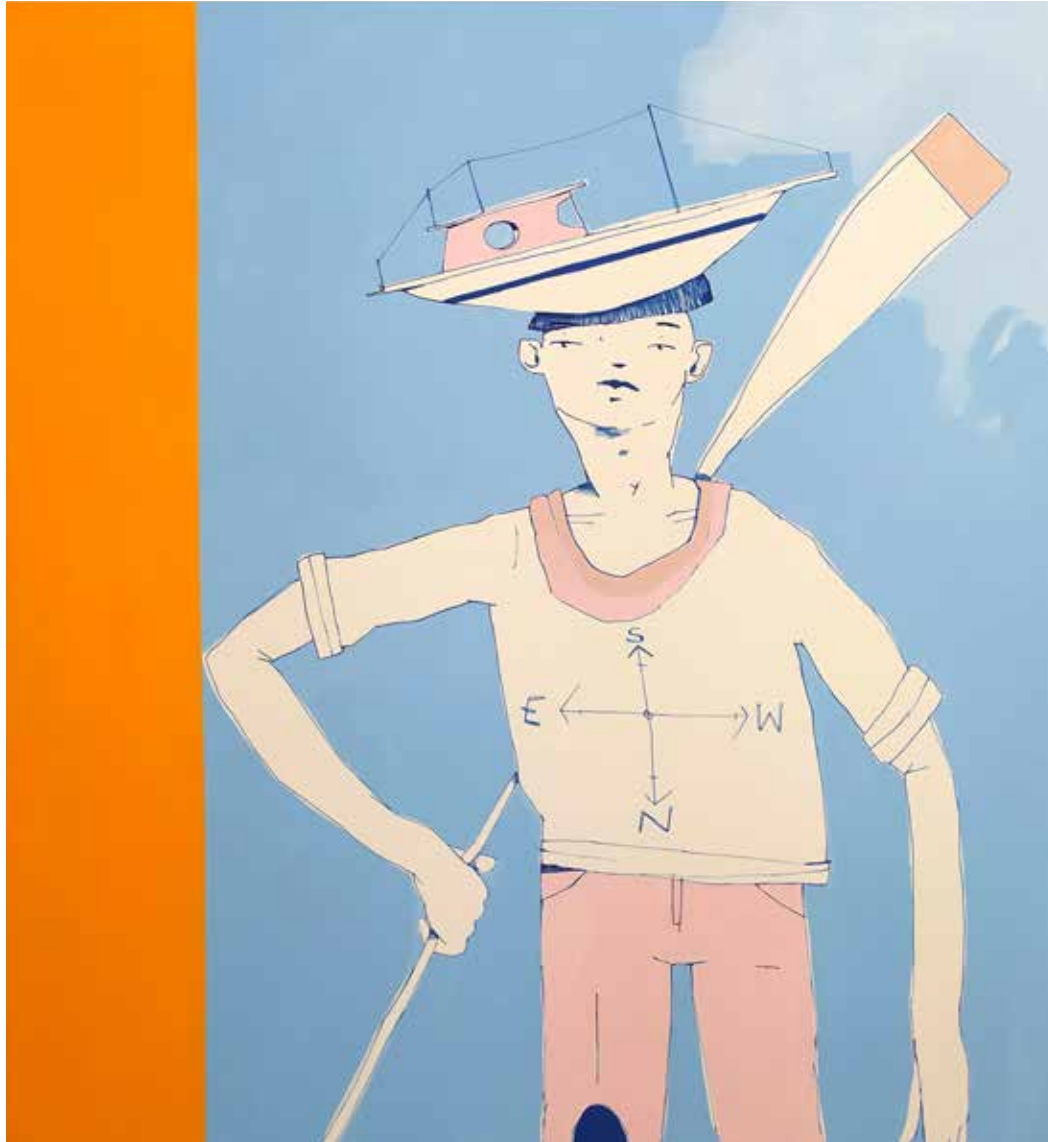
\$4500



BROTAR II

Mixed media on canvas
113 x 83 cm

\$4500



EN BUSCA DEL RUMBO

Mixed media on canvas
185 x 171 cm

\$7900



VIDA II

Mixed media on canvas
200 x 172 cm

\$8500



PRESAGIO

Mixed media on canvas
185 x 171 cm

\$7900



FLORECER

Mixed media on canvas
185 x 171 cm

\$7900



TAKE THE MOON

Sculpture printed in acrylic
190 x 60 cm

\$4200



WELCOME BACK

Sculpture printed in acrylic
190 x 60 cm

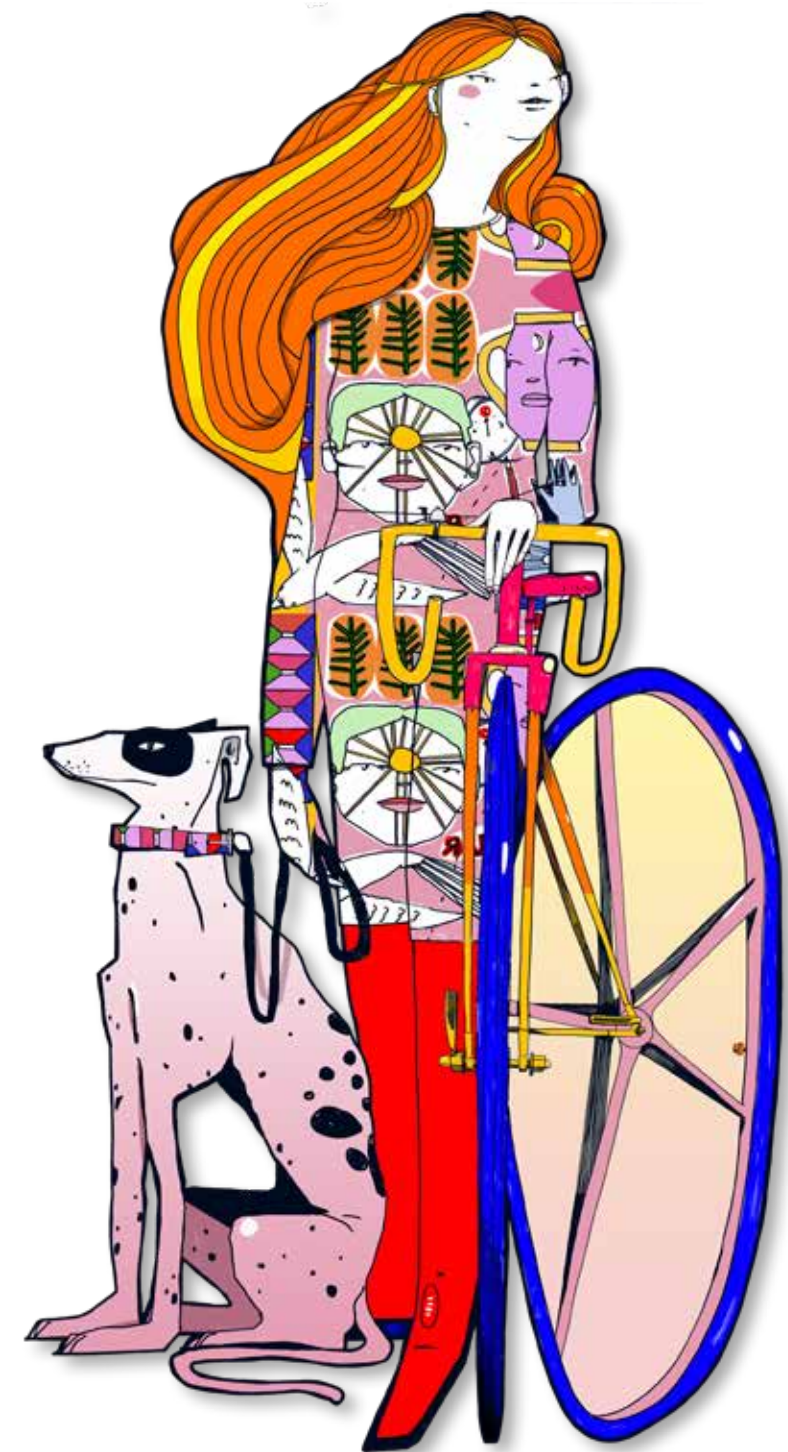
\$4200



PORTRAIT

Sculpture printed in acrylic
120 x 120 cm

\$4200



BIKE GIRL

Sculpture printed in acrylic
190 x 100 cm

\$4200



BIO.

Born in 1986 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Mart Aire’s primary artistic objective is to beautify public spaces by transforming the urban status quo. With this motivation, at the age of twelve, Aire took the streets to develop graffiti side by side with the first generation of street artists in Argentina.

The artist underwent a radical shift in his approach in 2007 where he began to create pictorial murals in his now idiosyncratic style, depicting explosions of colour, fine loose lines and playful settings, defiantly in spray paint – his work is illustrative, honed and compositionally defined, uncharacteristic for work typically using this medium.

His mural work unfurls like a threshold to another dimension. One of adventure, fantasy and magic, which aptly invoke feelings of joy, peace and freedom in the viewer. Aire’s style is free and fluid where he spontaneously injects messages within his work to further tantalise.

His career has seen Aire become an exemplar of Argentinian street art, availing him the opportunity to show his work internationally including at Mundirot Gallery, Buenos Aires, The Friedge gallery, Washington DC, Newcastle Project Space, London, Causey Contemporary, New York, Galerie Issue, Paris and Neurotitan Gallery in Berlin.

Solo exhibitions:

- 2022 AL SUR (TO THE SOUTH) Solo Exhibition, 19 Karen Contemporary Artspace, Mermaid Beach, AUSTRALIA
- 2015 ARTIST IN RESIDENCE, 44309 gallery, Dortmund, GERMANY
- 2014 INDIVIDUOS, Mundirot Gallery, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
- 2012 PASEO – “Official Book Release Show”, Idrawalot Gallery, Berlin GERMANY
- 2012 MART in the Honeycomb, Honeycomb Gallery, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
- 2008 AIRES DE GRAFFITI, Espacio TRIMARCHI, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA

Group exhibitions:

- 2019 UMBRAL, Espacio LeParc (MDZ) y Museo Marco La Boca, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
- 2016 LE GRAND 8, Paris, FRANCE
- 2015 MONIKER ART FAIR, London, ENGLAND
- 2015 CONTEMPORARY MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, Dortmund, GERMANY
- 2014 SCOPE ART FAIR, Miami, USA
- 2013 INTENCIONES CROMATICAS, Arca Mx Gallery, Mexico City, MEXICO
- 2013 TALKING WALLS OF BUENOS AIRES, The Friedge gallery, Washington DC, USA
- 2012 METROPOLIS, ICBC Bank Foundation, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
- 2012 THE TALKING WALLS OF BUENOS AIRES, London Newcastle Project Space, London, ENGLAND
- 2011 RITUAL, Causey Contemporary, New York, USA
- 2010 POP UP GALLERIES, RedBull House of Art, Buenos Aires , ARGENTINA
- 2010 SIN VERGUENZAS, Centro Cultural España Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
- 2010 K-21, Centro Cultural Borges, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
- 2009 GRAFFITI ARGENTINA, Neurotitan Gallery, Berlin, GERMANY
- 2009 GRAFFITI ARGENTINA, Galerie Issue, Paris, FRANCE
- 2008 DEL GRAFFITI A LA PINTURA, Centro Cultural Recoleta, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
- 2008 FICUS REPENS, Palais de Glace, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA

Selected festivals:

- 2019 URBAN ART MUSEUM, Lima, PERU
- 2017 ARTE URBANA SOBRAL, Ceará, BRAZIL
- 2017 URBAN WALLS BRAZIL, Annapolis, USA
- 2016 ARTE SANO, San Pedro de Macorís, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
- 2016 RUTA DE MURALES, ARGENTINA
- 2016 COLOR BA, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
- 2016 ROUEN IMPRESSIONNÉ, Rouen, FRANCE
- 2015 LA ESCOCESA, Barcelona, SPAIN
- 2015 KOSMOPOLITE ART TOUR, Louvain La Neuve, BELGIUM
- 2015 SEA, SAND & SPRAY, Blackpool, ENGLAND
- 2015 SOÑANDO POR HOLBOX, Quintana Roo, MEXICO
- 2015 FESTIVAL CONSTRUCTO, Mexico City, MEXICO
- 2014 STREET ART MUSEUM, Saint Petersburg, RUSSIA
- 2014 BICYCLE FILM FESTIVAL, Moscú, RUSSIA
- 2013 FESTIVAL CONCRETO, Fortaleza, BRAZIL
- 2013 MEETING OF STYLES, Mexico City, MEXICO
- 2012 MEETING OF STYLES, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA
- 2009 LE TEMP DE UN COULEUR, Gap, FRANCE
- 2008 TRATADO DE INTEGRACIÓN, Neuquén, ARGENTINA
- 2008 TRATADO DE INTEGRACIÓN, Neuquén, ARGENTINA

I especially want to thank Terri for giving me the possibility of being a resident of this amazing gallery for 3 months, for trusting my work for so many years. It's an experience I won't forget.

Thank my partner in the heart, Maru, for being close in this adventure so far from home, for all your help and love.

To the team of 19 Karen and the entire community of artists who made this residence as comfortable as possible.

Thank you Gold Coast, you are wonderful.

Mart Aire



Al Sur

19 KAREN
contemporary **artspace**