



Paul Shakespear

*Vuelta*

April 1 – May 7, 2022

Howard Yezerski Gallery is pleased to announce *Vuelta*, a solo exhibition of paintings by Paul Shakespear. Paul has been with the gallery since 1984, and our space has borne witness to his evolution from the constructed pieces of his early work toward layered canvases that explore the malleability and substance of paint itself and the possibilities of depth and meaning contained in color and canvas. *Vuelta* can mean both *return* and *turn*, and the paintings in this exhibition explore unexpected resonances with the past, even as they open a new and distinct phase in his body of work.

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I keep painting because sometimes I glimpse, in my work or the work of others, what the simple combination of paint, canvas and wood can achieve: a mysteriously powerful compression of emotion, memory, and visual delight. Painting, like making music, is an activity beyond words, a reaching for the emotional and unconscious world.

Since childhood, I've been interested in the subtlety, nuance, and precision of Japan's architecture, gardens, pottery, and art. What fascinates me most in the Japanese tradition is the way in which concepts of abstract perfection exist alongside seemingly spontaneous and free gestural elements such as calligraphy or pottery glazing.

Such gestures appear free and expressive, even organic, and yet they are as exact as any carpentry joint or skilled handiwork, the product of years of practice. Each of these recent paintings contains controlled elements alongside unscripted passages, exploring the tension and balance between these elements—calculation and intuition, tradition and change, the known and the unknown.