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ALBERTO CASTRO LEÑERO
Mexico City-based artist

CASTRO LEÑERO BROTHERS prove contemporary art runs in the family

BY MARIA GALLUCCI
The News

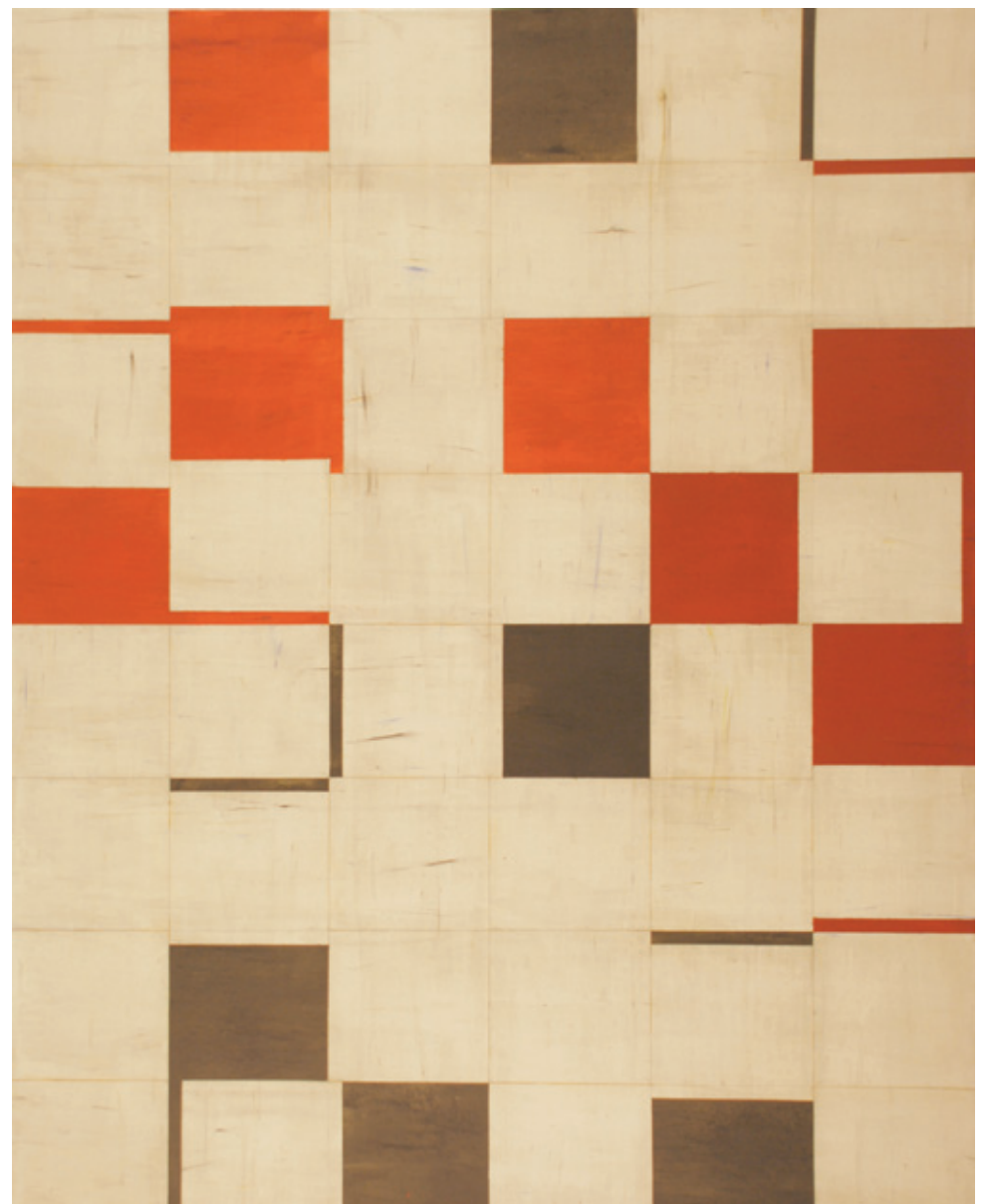
The latest exhibition at the Caja Blanca fine art gallery in Mexico City is a family reunion of sorts, joining a sampling of pieces by Alberto, Francisco, José and Miguel Castro Leñero into a single showroom. More than just a common hall to hang the brothers' artwork, however, the display provides an ample panorama of the diverse and varied facets of contemporary Mexican art in the 21st century.

The untitled collection of more than 10 paintings and sculptures is on display through April 11 at the Bosques de las Lomas-area gallery. The exhibit is the brothers' most recent familial show in six years, and it comes nearly 40 years after the quartet presented collectively for the first time at the Palacio de Bellas Artes.

"This is the just tip of the iceberg of everything that we have been working on for the past year," Alberto told The News at the exhibit's Feb. 11 inauguration.

The Castro Leñero brothers explained that their art-loving father and grandmother had a profound influence during the foursome's formative years. The men were born and raised in Mexico City, where they all currently reside.

"Our grandmother made designs and decorations, and when we were children, she always loved getting us to draw and paint," Alberto said. "Our father also loved paintings and would take us to many museums and galleries around the city; I



From the series "The Red and The Black" by Francisco Castro Leñero

always saw his adoration for art and painting.

"These are the principal influences that have intervened in each of our work, but we all eventually decided later on to dedicate ourselves to (the professional art world)," he said.

Although the brothers all paint or sculpt contemporary art and grew up during a

similar period of renovation in the Mexican arts scene, the artists' unique styles reflect their own individual transformations as adults.

Alberto, for example, said that he borders on abstraction by combining organic elements to create contrasts of shapes, colors, symmetries and ideas. His 2010 acrylic-on-cloth

painting "Estructura Blanca" ("White Structure") smatters the purple shadow of a human figure together with rigid black squares and shapeless green cords twisting across a varnished background.

Miguel described his mixed technique pieces as "the recycling of images and materials that already exist. I don't invent



"Torre Orgánica" by Alberto Castro Leñero

