



## **HAROLD ANCART (b. 1980)**

### **Untitled**

oilstick and pencil on canvas mounted on wood, in artist's chosen frame

112 x 80 in. (113 x 81 x 2 in.)

284.48 x 203.2 cm (287.02 x 205.74 x 5.08 cm)

Executed in 2015

48168

### **PROVENANCE:**

CLEARING, New York

Private Collection, acquired from the above, 2015

Sotheby's, New York, October 12, 2023, lot 14

Private collection, acquired at the above sale

Harold Ancart's *Untitled* (2015) reflects the artist's poetic engagement with landscape and memory, created in the wake of his transformative 2014 cross-country road trip across the United States. During this journey, Ancart converted his car into a mobile studio, stopping spontaneously to sketch and record fleeting impressions of the natural environment. These observations informed a new body of work that magnified and abstracted ephemeral moments in the landscape, ultimately inspiring his first major institutional solo exhibition at The Menil Collection in Houston in 2016.

In this painting, a luminous, stylized plant rises against a deep black ground, its elongated leaves rendered in radiant greens, yellows, and reds that appear to glow against the darkness. The composition balances graphic clarity with expressive spontaneity—gestural marks and splashes of color orbit the central form like fragments of light or drifting pollen. By isolating and enlarging a single botanical subject, Ancart transforms a fleeting natural encounter into a monumental image that feels both intimate and cosmic.

Plant imagery has remained a recurring motif throughout Ancart's practice, reappearing in later exhibitions including his 2022–2023 presentation at Gagosian. Trained in Belgium and later influenced by the legacy of American abstraction after relocating to New York in 2007, Ancart's work merges a European sensibility with the expressive freedom of postwar American painting.

Harold Ancart (b. 1980) is a Belgian-born painter and sculptor whose work spans painting, sculpture, and installation, exploring our experience of natural landscapes and built environments. His compositions often combine recognizable imagery with abstract passages of color and are sometimes arranged into multipart tableaux, reflecting a practice that moves fluidly between abstraction and representation.

Born in Brussels, Ancart initially studied political science before turning to art. He received his MFA from the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Visuels de La Cambre in 2007, the same year he relocated to New York. Despite his Belgian training, Ancart developed a practice deeply informed by the history of American painting and abstraction, drawing inspiration from artists such as Richard Diebenkorn, Helen Frankenthaler, Brice Marden, and Wayne Thiebaud. His work blends a European sensibility with the expressive freedom characteristic of postwar American painters. Ancart frequently works serially, focusing on elemental subjects—trees, oceans, or

icebergs—and isolating moments of poetry in everyday surroundings while emphasizing the material process of painting.

Ancart has exhibited widely in Europe and the United States. Notable presentations include Harold Ancart: Untitled (there is no there there) at The Menil Collection, Houston (2016), and Harold Ancart: Subliminal Standard, organized by the Public Art Fund at Cadman Plaza Park, Brooklyn (2019–2020). His work has also appeared in exhibitions at S.M.A.K., Ghent (2019); Centre Pompidou-Metz (2018); the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (2017); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2013); and WIELS Centre d'Art Contemporain, Brussels (2012).

Works by Ancart are included in the permanent collections of the Fondation Beyeler, Basel; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; Lenbachhaus, Munich; the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Denmark; The Menil Collection, Houston; the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. He currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

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