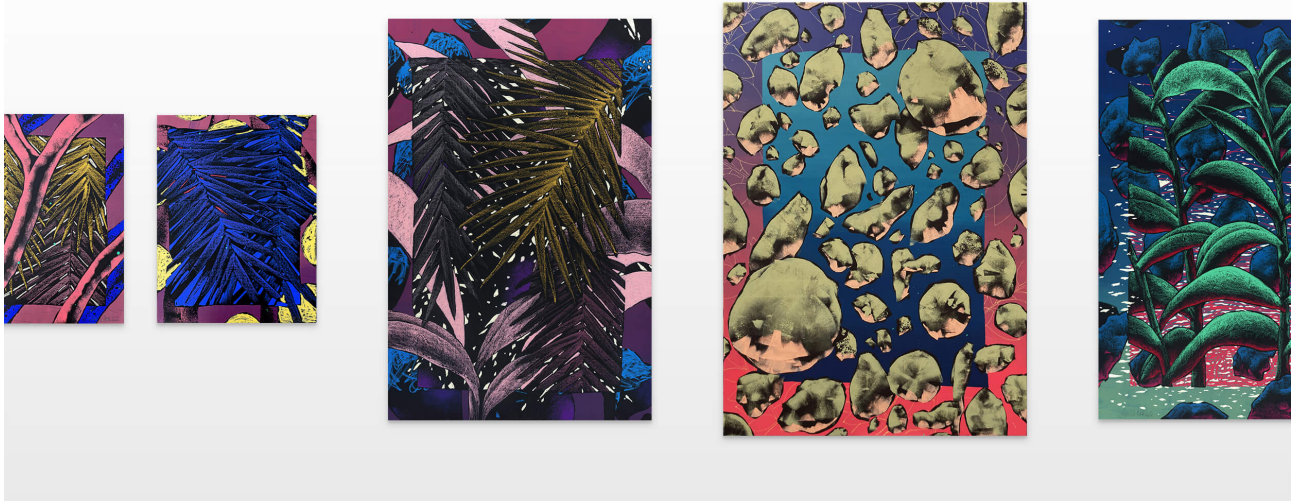


*„I have found to be able to play with shapes, colours and compositions endlessly.“*  
- Julien Colombier, 2022



*Julien Colombier „Stayin' Alive“ series, 2022*

**Rather than focusing on a specific topic or storyline, Julien Colombier's artistic practice is about a certain mood or atmosphere. In his exhibition entitled Stayin' Alive he does not hold back utilizing heavy light dark contrasting and brilliance of color in his art works. The exhibition is on view from July 7th - 31st, 2022 at Kolly Gallery in Geneva.**

Colombier's artworks seem to be poetic statements about nature, which demonstrates clearly its superiority to mankind. Similar to the Chinese landscape paintings (around the 900s) which stated very poetically the sense of apartness between human and nature. The artist focuses on creating more abstracted depictions of the organic and vegetal world, completed by atmospheric color harmonies.

While looking at Colombier's paintings nature presents its many faces and various moods can be experienced. In the beginning nature can seem quiet and calm, one can even listen to the whisper of nature. At the same time the density, lushness and abundance of nature can seem overwhelming and tropical. Nature can also become wild, dark and stormy, like in Caspar David Friedrich, William Turner and John Constables's iconic depictions of nature. They were actively seeking to demonstrate the wildness of nature. Like in Colombier's artistic practice, there is a sense that nature is beyond human control. Sometimes his artworks can appear eerie, ominous and mystic, they are often perceived as dreamlike or hypnotic. Nature is also witnessing the natural catastrophes therefore the depiction can shift to express fear, despair and anguish. Another great atmosphere evoked by Colombier's painting is the great beauty, symmetry and repetition which can be found in nature. Last but not least, it is known from the history of art, that communing with nature (preferably alone) was healthy both for the mind and the spirit. The spirituality and sacredness of nature crown the arch of atmospheres, which can be experienced in the artworks and once again states the supremacy and sublimity of nature.

With the exhibition title *Stayin' Alive* the artist demonstrates ambivalence towards nature. The encounter with nature is often full of beauty and joy. But at the same time the awe at its ominous mightiness and power is immanent. Knowing that nature will continue to exist from and after mankind, the artist chose the title *Stayin' Alive* as a direct reference to the late 1970 song, creating a funky twist to the power of nature that is reflected in the poppy colour choices and accent on intuitive painting.

### About the Julien Colombier

Julien Colombier (b. 1972) is a french artist living and painting in Paris, France. His youth was influenced by pop culture, reality TV, Manga, graffiti, music and sports. His interest always followed design and art. The autodidact researches the interplay of strong contrasts, textures, color harmonies, patterns and abstracted shapes. He paints from large sheets of paper to wall and installation – the more invasive, the better. The predominance of black in this paintings makes them appear mystic, which is often perceived as dreamlike or hypnotic. Like an alchemist, he draws from the darkness a scintillant glow, that manifests itself in organic and vegetal shapes and colors.

Colombier's artistic oeuvre reaches from screen print edition to large-scale canvases to full-scale installation from Diptyque to Cartier and Chanel, who commissioned him to customize their boutiques. His unique style takes over the fashion and design world. His artworks have been represented in several exhibitions at key galleries and museums in Europe and Asia, including Le Feuvre & Roze (Paris), Kolly Gallery (Zurich), Bookmarc Gallery (Tokyo).



*Julien Colombier at his studio, 2022*

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