

# Tomás Esson

## *MUSA*

David Lewis  
July 16 - August 7  
53 The Circle  
East Hampton, NY 11937

David Lewis is pleased to present the gallery's second solo exhibition of Cuban artist Tomás Esson. Titled *MUSA*, this is the artist's first show in East Hampton. *MUSA* features new gestural paintings from his *Miami Flow* series (2015-ongoing), a site-specific Wet Wall Drawing (1995-ongoing), Esson's own take on the American Flag (2022), and an early *Retrato* painting from the 1990s.

This exhibition follows a major 30-year career retrospective *The GOAT* held at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami in 2020-21 and an accompanying catalog.

From his very first exhibition in Havana, Cuba in 1988, which was censored and closed by Cuban authorities, Esson has developed a major body of expressionist paintings, emerging as one of the most dynamic voices of the Afro-Caribbean diaspora.

*"A towering figure in Miami and beyond, Tomás Esson has created a powerful visual language characterized by expert yet urgent gestures, complex figuration, and biting humor. Expressionistic, and affirmative of the radical potential of artistic production for self-expression, Esson's work is in-spiring for its courage and its commitment to painting as a political form."*

Alex Gartenfeld

Esson was born in Havana in 1963. He graduated from the Instituto Superior de Arte in Havana, in 1987. His work was showcased in a number of controversial exhibitions in the late 1980s, as he became a central figure in the decade's renaissance in Cuban art and began to exhibit internationally. In 1990, he left Cuba and has since then lived in Miami and New York City.

His work is in the collections of the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen, Germany; and Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Monterrey, Mexico.