

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Aitor Lajarin-Encina
Open Rooms

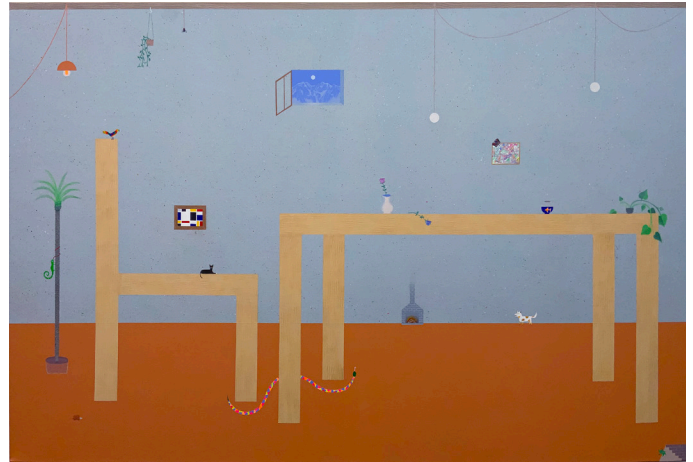
March 29 — May 3, 2025

Opening Reception: Saturday, March 29, 5–8 pm
Free and open to the public | Artist in attendance

David B. Smith Gallery is pleased to present *Open Rooms*, a solo exhibition by Fort Collins, CO-based artist Aitor Lajarin-Encina. In his first showing with the gallery, Lajarin-Encina will present new works that joyfully serve as satirical critiques of modernity.

In keeping with his interest in philosophical ruminations about life, interpersonal relationships, the environment, and the conventions of painting itself, *Open Rooms* serves as a visual summary of recurrent themes in Lajarin-Encina's practice of recent years. His familiar yet enigmatic scenes and figures inspire curiosity, delight, and a hint of estrangement.

Familiar scenes and cityscapes largely focused on domestic spaces, including living and dining rooms and other built environments, capture an awkward enormity, a sense of alienation in his calm, nighttime scenes. In *The Pets*, a full moon peers in through a high-set window, casting its cool gaze onto a room of outsized furniture and tiny pets including a cat, dog, and parrot. The super flat quality of the perspective, the absurdity of the openness and size of the room and its occupants, and the vacant feeling it inspires are all carefully crafted elements of Lajarin-Encina's commentary on the failures of our collective ego and the philosophical architecture that frames it.



Aitor Lajarin-Encina, *The Pets*, 2025, acrylic on canvas, 40 x 60 in. (101.6 x 152.4 cm)

Lajarin-Encina's precise linework and cartoonish style work in tandem with his deep inquiries into humanity's purpose, progress, and folly to capture a satirical wit. *Open Rooms* invites viewers to step through the threshold into the conditions Modernism has designed—into the corners of our minds we wish so badly to tame—and to pause.

About Aitor Lajarin-Encina

Aitor Lajarin-Encina is an artist, educator, and organizer born in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Basque Country, Spain, in 1977, the year of punk. He received his BFA in painting from the University of Basque Country, Bilbao, and his MFA in visual arts from the University of California, San Diego. Aitor is an interdisciplinary artist whose principal expertise is painting and drawing. Some of his creative work and research interests include painting and drawing contemporary critical issues, different modes of critique of modernity, and various speculative intersections of contemporary art practice and public culture.

Recent exhibition projects include *Crickets* at the Heritage Square Museum (Los Angeles), *Tarta Tatlin* at Universidad de las Americas (Puebla, MX), *La Perspectiva* at Artneue Gallery (Spain), and *Big Wave* at Southern Methodist University (Dallas, TX). He has been involved in various artist-run curatorial initiatives since 2015, and has taught painting, drawing, and interdisciplinary studio classes at UC San Diego and UDLAP in Puebla, MX. He is currently based in Fort Collins, CO, where he is an Assistant Professor of Painting at Colorado State University, where he teaches painting, drawing, and socially engaged art practice courses.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Artforum*, *Art in America*, and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works." The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.

David B. Smith Gallery is a member of the New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA).