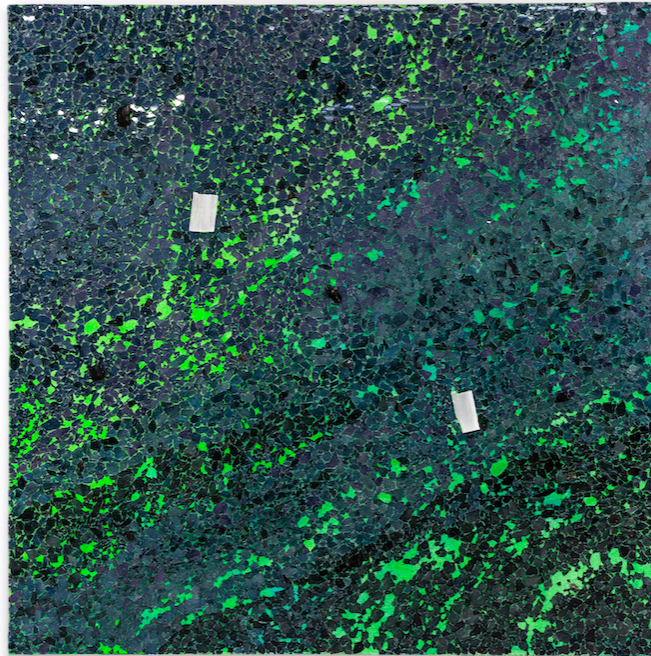


SURFACE

Alteronce Gumby's Cosmic Meditations on Color, History, and Lightness

In a never-before-seen series of paintings debuting at Mexico City's Zona Maco art fair, the Bronx-based artist ruminates on the Aztecs' cosmic perspectives and the historic symbolism of obsidian.

BY NADJA SAYE | February 08,
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Gumby created each piece in hues of tropical greens, ocean blues, and purples. Each one is covered with black stones in wave-like patterns, which are made of crushed black tourmaline, black obsidian, and labradorite. He also used shungite, a gemstone found in Shunga, a village in

Karelia, Russia, and nuummite, which is found in Nuuk, Greenland, and considered to be one of the oldest minerals known to mankind.

Each work riffs on Gumby's recent trip to Mexico, where he visited Teotihuacán's Pyramid of the Sun, a historic site made of a volcanic rock called hewed tezontle and recognized by the Aztecs as a protective zone known for healing and fertility. The region of Teotihuacán, too, is a key location where obsidian, the black volcanic rock, is harvested. "This black gemstone has its own sense of energy about it," Gumby says. "It brought me back to the cosmic perspective around the color black."

