

Press release

JULIO RONDO – Turn It Over

Opening: September 17, 6 pm

Duration of the Exhibition: September 18 - November 07, 2026

Under the title Turn It Over, Galerie Andreas Binder presents the eleventh solo exhibition by the artist Julio Rondo.

In his latest works, Julio Rondo continues his decades-long exploration of color, memory, and perception, translating these themes into a new, radically reduced visual language. His works are abstract color spaces of extraordinary visual intensity - precisely constructed, yet open to chance, intuition, and the unpredictable processes of the material.

Since studying under Prof. Sonderborg in Stuttgart in the 1970s, Rondo has developed a distinctive artistic method that he has continuously refined and pursued to this day. He creates his works on the inside of the frame's glass. Working in numerous layers, the artist applies self-mixed acrylic paints, superimposes them, alters their transparency, and selectively removes sections. Only in the finished work do the individual strips of color come together to form complex geometric shapes and a multilayered, illusionistic space.

The principle of the "behind" is central to his work. We see only the uppermost visible layer; beneath it lie further color spaces beyond our immediate reach. Transparencies, overlapping layers, and colored reflections create a subtle spatial tension between surface and depth, between what is visible and what remains concealed. The glass is not merely a support for the painting but an integral part of the work itself.

Rondo's early works often drew on concrete memories and visual experiences: landscapes and architecture, portraits, personal situations, or images encountered through the media. These motifs were never depicted, but radically transformed. In his more recent works, these concrete references are increasingly dissolving. In their place emerges what Rondo himself describes as "Meta-Memory" - a form of visual memory beyond any clearly identifiable recollection.

This also marks a shift in color's role. It no longer serves to describe; instead, it becomes the subject of the painting itself. Intense fields of color, sharply defined edges, and subtle transparencies create a visual world that resists any definitive interpretation, instead acting directly on perception and emotion.

Music has accompanied Rondo's artistic process for many years. He paints to and with music, and his titles occasionally reference songs by the Rolling Stones or Tindersticks. Yet, as with his memories, he never adopts these musical impulses literally. They are shortened, altered, and translated into an independent visual language.

Rondo's current works represent a form of abstraction that relies on neither concrete objects nor a fixed system of meaning. Their impact arises from the interplay of color, rhythm, space, and time. The longer one looks, the more profoundly the perception of their depth and internal structure shifts.

Julio Rondo does not conceive of painting as a representation of the world, but as an autonomous space of experience. His most recent works take this approach a step further: They reduce memory to its visual essence and make color itself the carrier of atmosphere, movement, and emotion. Breathtaking color spaces - works that do not seek to be deciphered, but experienced.

(Based on the catalog text "Breathtaking Swathes of Color" by Matthias Harder.)

Born in 1952 in Sontrondio, Spain, Julio Rondo moved to Germany with his parents in 1962. From 1974 to 1980, he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Stuttgart under Professor K. R. H. Sonderborg. He currently lives and works in Berlin.