

# RAFAEL DOMENECH

## *Flowers Blooming on Acid*

Curated by Jérôme Sans

193  
GALLERY

April 1 - May 2025

24 rue Béanger 75003, Paris

193 Gallery is thrilled to announce its collaboration with Cuban-born American artist Rafael Domenech for the solo exhibition *Flowers Blooming on Acid*, on view at its Paris space from April 1 to May 31, 2025. Simultaneously, a solo presentation of Domenech's work will be featured at 193 Gallery's booth at Art Paris from April 3 to 6, 2025. To mark the occasion, the gallery will publish a monograph dedicated to the artist's practice. Both exhibitions, along with the publication, are curated by Jérôme Sans.

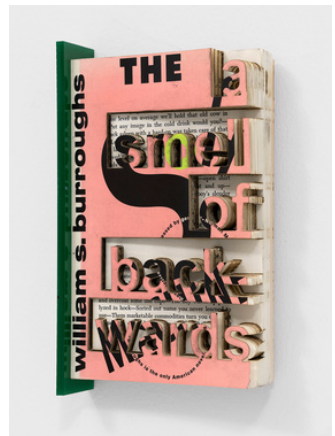
"Situated at the forefront of artists who are redefining the status of an artwork and the exhibition experience, Rafael Domenech creates architectural interventions which intersect publishing methodologies—such as cutting, redacting, revising, and circulation—as research tactics to amplify his interest in the exhibition model as an active machine for production rather than a repository space.

For his first monographic exhibition in Paris at the 193 Gallery, Rafael Domenech draws a new space within that of the gallery, creating entirely different possibilities. Planting the seeds for a new story and context, he divides the space with wooden walls that act like folding screens—an object which traditionally holds an important place in art history. Like paintings floating in space, the architectural device is both a work of art in itself and a recipient for other works, mounted on its walls and contained inside it, in the manner of a Russian Doll. As is Rafael Domenech's custom when creating new spaces, everything inside them, with no exception, becomes a work of art.

Both objects and paintings, his "book paintings", as he refers to them, transform the traditional understanding of the pictorial medium, repositioning it as a modular system. By borrowing from the world and vocabulary of books, Rafael Domenech defies the conventional, frontal relationship one has to painting. In the process of folding and unfolding that the work enables, the visitor is invited to come closer, to discover new fragments, a new geography of painting. Never definitive, they can live multiple lives, whether placed in a library like a book, hung on a wall, or resting on a table.



View of the exhibition *The Affordance of the Oblique* at ASE Foundation, Shanghai, 2023



Things of insomnia (frank), 2024-2025  
Laser cut book, plexiglass  
23 x 14 x 4.5 cm

By always using very restricted means, the artist opens up a conversation around operational efficiencies. Using “simple” materials and creating his own methods to simplify travel and installation, his approach aligns with today’s fast-paced global interconnected world—one that is constantly on the move and ecologically fragile. Rafael Domenech is an inherent builder, one who advocates for a DIY aesthetic; he never takes technology for granted, always dissects to gain better understanding and deconstructs to achieve better building. He is the very embodiment of the artist who invents his own rules, his entire operating system.”

- Jérôme Sans

“When I try to convert a carrying book that you fit in your backpack onto a large painting, it is a critical position on the medium of painting itself and the uselessness of it. It’s about the occupation of space, being somewhat radical around it, and using backchannels to do so. It’s a never-ending open negotiation of presence and, in a way, a self-portrait.”

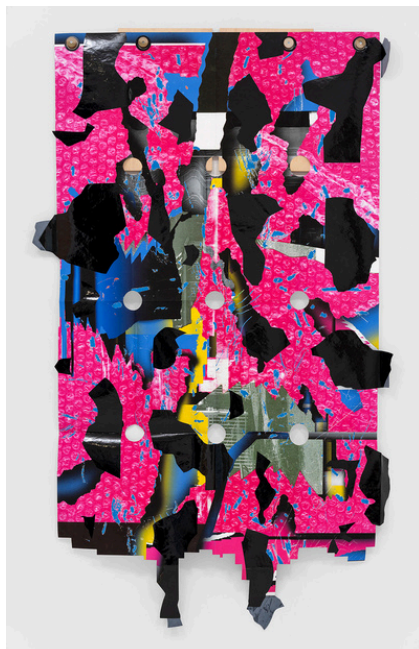
- Rafael Domenech

Born in Havana, Cuba, in 1989, Rafael Domenech lives and works between New York and Miami. His work has been exhibited in France at Passerelle Centre d’art contemporain in Brest (2022) and in major international institutions, including the Bass Museum (Miami), Sculpture Center (New York), Socrates Sculpture Park (Long Island City), Storefront for Art and Architecture (New York), ASE Foundation (Shanghai), Asia Society Texas (Houston), ICA VCU Museum (Richmond), the Phillip and Patricia Frost Art Museum (Miami), the Bronx Museum of the Arts (New York), and Artium Museum (Vitoria). He has been awarded grants and fellowships from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Tulsa Artist Fellowship, and the Cintas Foundation among others. Domenech holds an MFA from Columbia University.

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*The Elliptical Hour, 2025*  
Inkjet print on paper, commercial vinyl, plywood,  
binding cloth, adhesive. 178 x 112 cm



*The Elliptical Hour, 2025*  
Inkjet print on paper, commercial vinyl, plywood,  
binding cloth, adhesive. 187 x 114 cm