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the village
VOICE

Rubens Ghenov

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Rubens Ghenov's elusive but dynamic compositions are inspired by the writings of a fictitious Spanish poet, whom the painter envisions retreating to the woods for devout meditations. The raw linen surfaces convey vulnerability — a slip of the brush would mar his sophisticated, straight-edged geometries — while his gorgeous biomorphic blots and blurs evoke ephemeral presences. Although his titles include words such as “Chronicle” and “Unabridged,” and his images contain the occasional trapezoid that hints at the spine of a book, Ghenov’s deft paint handling and sumptuous palette transcend any sense of illustration. Moments of gnarled texture recall the fractured grace of Georges Braque’s cubist interiors, and gray slabs that float like concrete clouds channel a deft surrealist ambiance. This is a painter who has found a new door of perception for abstraction to knock on.