

## MAGDA CEBOKLI THE ROOT OF THE SQUARE

February 9th – 26th 2022

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FIVEWALLS

## Statement

After visiting the Alhambra in 2007 I made a number of small studies based on my response to, and reading about, the site. A return visit was planned for 2020 but had to be cancelled because of Covid. My intention had been to refresh my experience of the place and to see how this would be reflected in new work. With no likelihood that this return trip would be possible in the near future, I decided to work from the studies I had already made and from further ideas arising from them. The paintings in this exhibition are thus based on my first response to, and later memory of, the impact of that space.

Art historian, Antonio Fernandez Puertas\* has written extensively on the Alhambra, identifying the geometric proportional system on which its entire Nasrid architecture is based: a series of ratios utilising a system of progressive diagonals:  $\sqrt{2}$ ,  $\sqrt{3}$ ,  $\sqrt{5}$ .

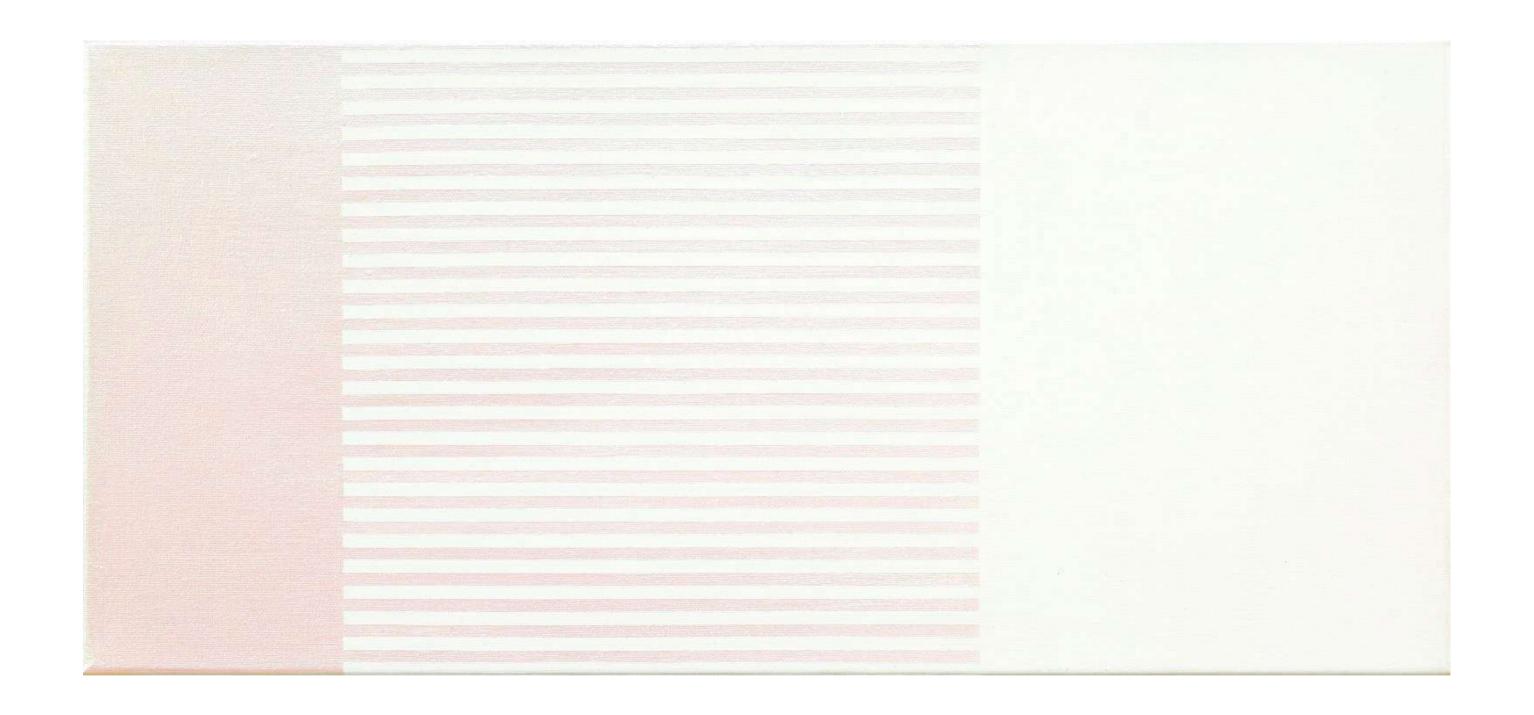
I decided to follow through on this idea using this same proportional system as a tool for developing a series of new paintings. The works presented here are the result.

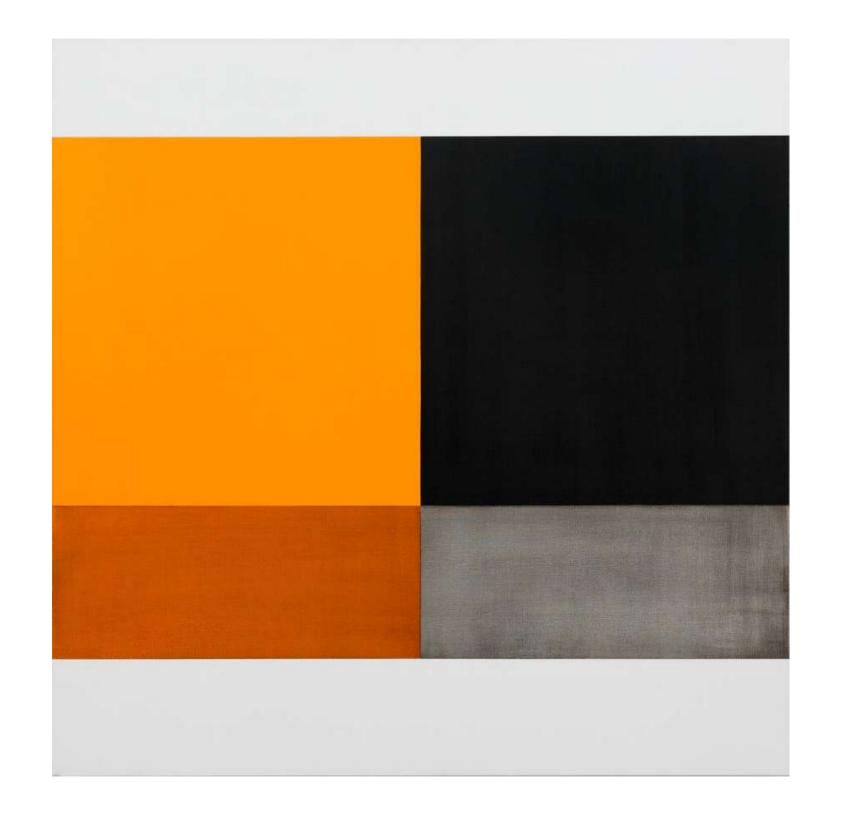
This Alhambra project has developed over a period of time. It is an exploration of a system of composition, and the range of expressive possibilities this offers, whilst maintaining the subjectivity of the experience of being in the place that inspired the works. It is an abstract reflection on the harmonics of space and light and how these are expressed through ratio, shadow and the use of reflection.

\* Antonio Fernandez-Puertas: The Alhambra Vol1: From the Ninth Century to Yusef (1354) Saqi Books London 1997



Alhambra #6 2021 Acrylic on Linen 101.5 x 105.5cm \$5800

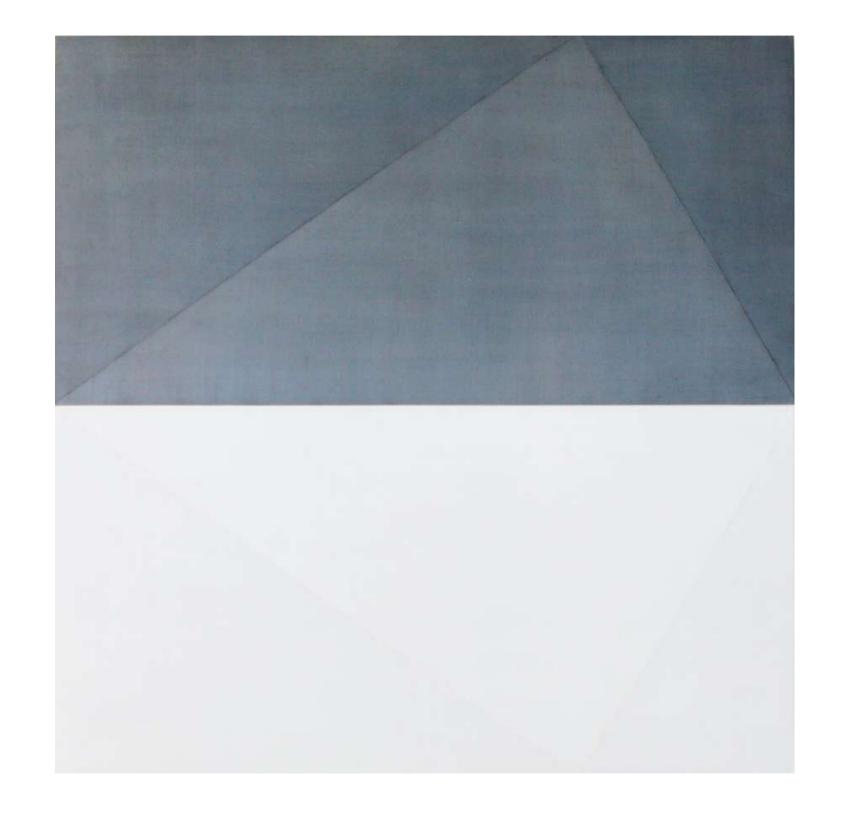




Alhambra #1 2012/21 Acrylic on linen 101.5cm x 101.5cm SOLD











Alhambra #8: Puerta de Luz 2021 Acrylic on Linen 80 x 80cm \$5800

