



eric firestone gallery

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FUTURA2000

B. 1955, NEW YORK CITY

FUTURA2000 (born Leonard Hilton McGurr in New York City) is a graffiti pioneer who began painting subways in the late 1970s. In 1980 he painted the iconic whole car titled “Break,” which was recognized for its abstraction, rather than a focus on lettering. This painting established some of the enduring aesthetic motifs and approaches FUTURA2000 would explore over the decades that followed.

FUTURA2000 was among the first graffiti artists to be shown in contemporary art galleries in the early 1980s. His paintings were shown at Patti Astor’s Fun Gallery and Tony Shafrazi, alongside those of his friends Keith Haring, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Rammellzee, DONDI, and Kenny Scharf. MoMA PS1 brought the artists together in their landmark 1981 exhibition, “New York / New Wave.”

In this period, FUTURA2000 illustrated the sleeve cover for The Clash’s ‘This is Radio Clash’ seven-inch single. He accompanied The Clash on their Combat Rock tour, spray painting in the background while the band played. He painted as an accompaniment to demonstrations of break dance by the Rock Steady Crew, and concerts by Grand Master Flash and Afrika Bombataa. With the Clash, he recorded the vinyl “The Escapades of Futura 2000,” a manifesto for graffiti.



By the 1990s, as the commercialization of global street culture in the 1990s inspired collaborations with fashion and lifestyle brands, FUTURA2000’s work moved toward a more refined expression of his abstract style. Commissions from brands such as Supreme, A Bathing Ape, Stüssy, and Mo’ Wax saw his artwork canonized as an elemental component of cross-genre street aesthetic. He has collaborated with Nike, BMW, Comme des Garçons, Louis Vuitton, and Off-White.

Simultaneously, he has developed his fine art practice. In recent years he created collaborative works with Japanese artist Takashi Murakami, and he has exhibited at Kaikai KiKi, Gallery in Tokyo. His work has been shown at The New Museum, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art



Los Angeles; the Groninger Museum, the Netherlands; and Yvon Lambert, Galerie De Noirmont, and the galerie du jour agnès b., all Paris. He was the subject of a 2019 exhibition at Urban Spree Gallery in Berlin; and a large site-specific installation in 2020 at the Palais de Tokyo. In November 2020, Rizzoli International Publications released *FUTURA: The Artist's Monograph*, the most in-depth and comprehensive survey of the artist's life and career. His work is also included in the 2020 exhibition "Writing the Future: Basquiat and the Hip Hop Generation," at the Museum of Fine Art, Boston.

The artist's work bears his interest in a futuristic aesthetic. He has long been fascinated by science fiction and the space age. He enrolled in the US Navy in 1974, traveling across the world, and becoming intrigued by the computer and

navigational systems. He was an early adopter to sophisticated computer technology and video gaming.

In his paintings we see certain motifs relating to these interests: the Pointman: an alien, robotic-like figure, and a form that has been called an atom-shape, but which is ultimately about perpetual movement.

Other recurrent forms are that of a crane, and a linear mark signifying a "break" or rupture. Perhaps most distinctive is the thin, refined line that FUTURA2000 achieves using spray paint. This is contrasted to the larger mists of color area, and to more gestural brush marks. Many of his paintings were made flat on the floor, and bear the energy of moving around the perimeter of the painting, yet approaching the work with a deliberate elegance.

By leaving large areas of his canvases open, and allowing the forms to float across the surface, FUTURA2000 suggests access to a cosmic space. The paintings become a membrane between the personal and the public, material and universal concerns; and it is this grace which has characterized FUTURA2000's work throughout.



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FUTURA2000
The Tourists Pt. 1, 2022

acrylic, marker, and spray paint on canvas
98h x 98w in
248.92h x 248.92w cm
FF162



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FUTURA2000
The Tourists Pt. 2, 2022

acrylic, marker, and spray paint on canvas
98h x 98w in
248.92h x 248.92w cm
FF162



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FUTURA2000
TIMES SQUARE, 2022

acrylic, marker, and spray paint on canvas
98h x 98w in
248.92h x 248.92w cm
FF159

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FUTURA2000
TIME BANDITS, 2022

acrylic, marker, and spray paint on canvas
98h x 98w in
248.92h x 248.92w cm
FF158

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FUTURA2000
PORTHOS, 2022

acrylic, marker, and spray paint on canvas
89h x 85w in
226.06h x 215.90w cm
FF160



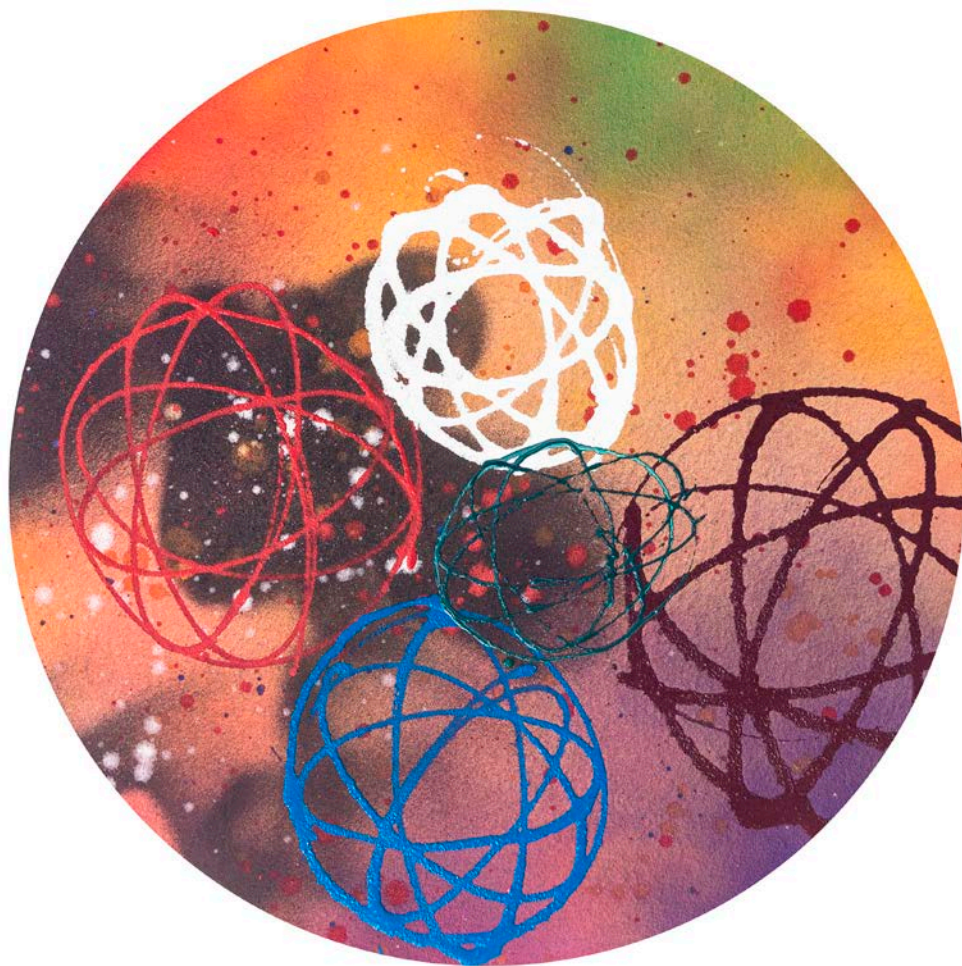
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FUTURA2000
ARAMIS, 2022

acrylic, marker, and spray paint on canvas
89h x 85w in
226.06h x 215.90w cm
FF161

eric firestone gallery

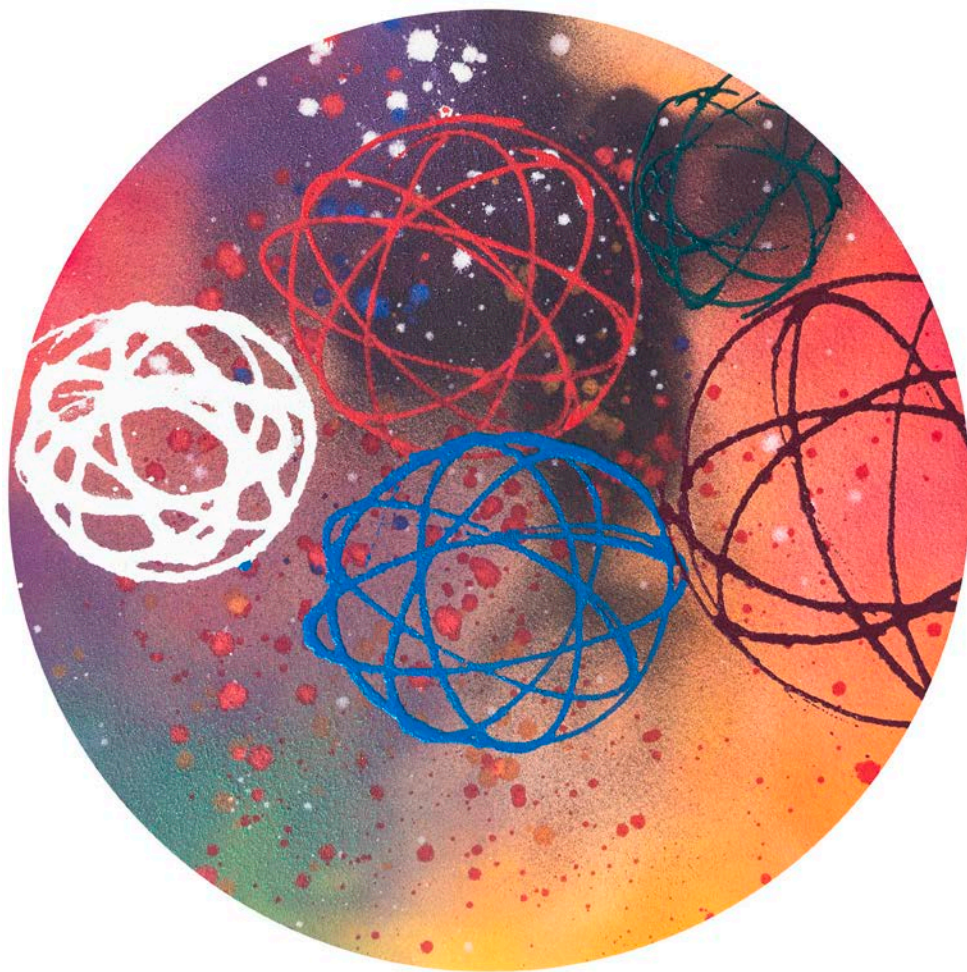


FUTURA2000
ARGENTINA, 2022

acrylic, marker, and spray paint on canvas
24h x 24w in
60.96h x 60.96w cm
FF172

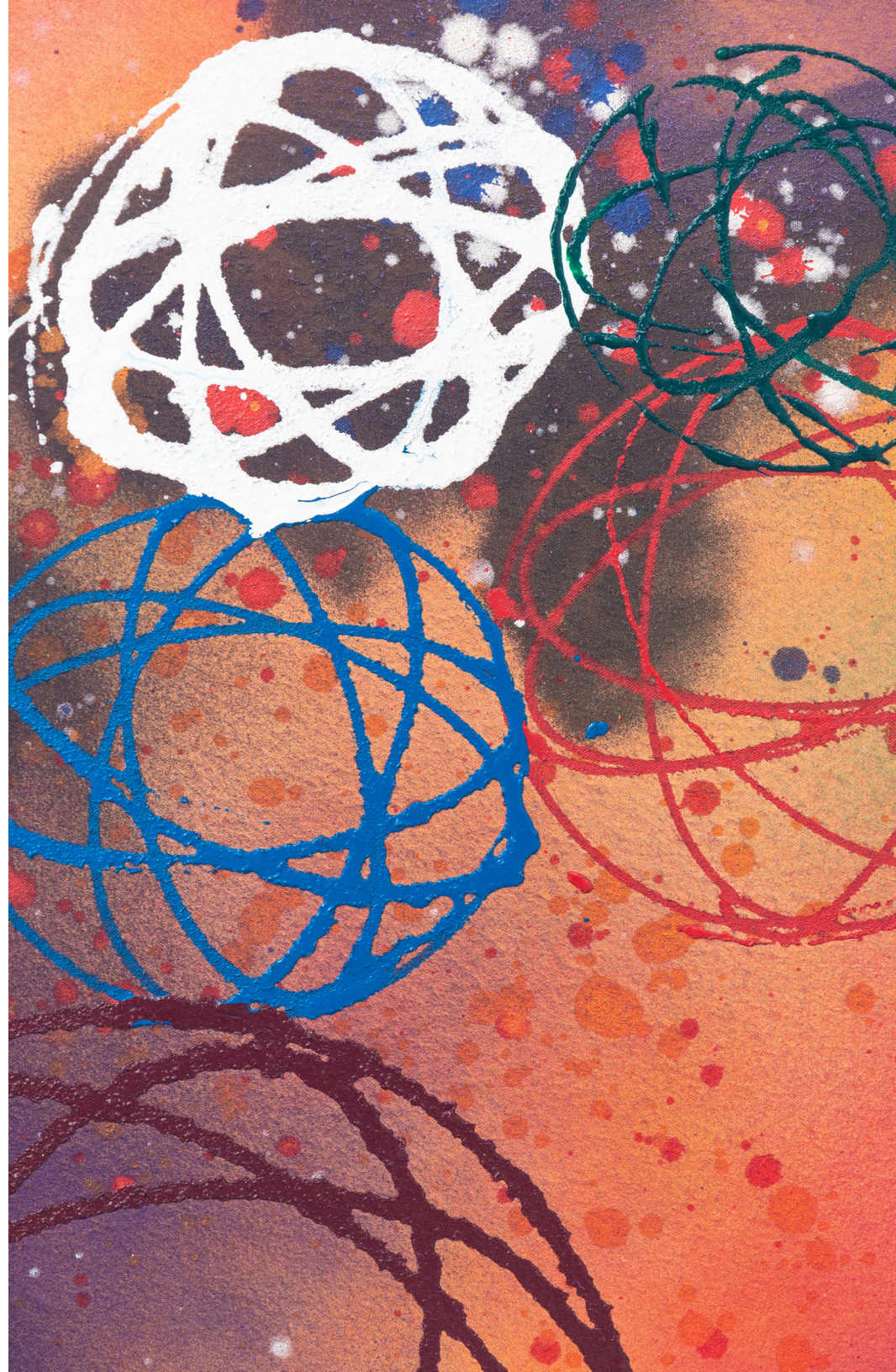


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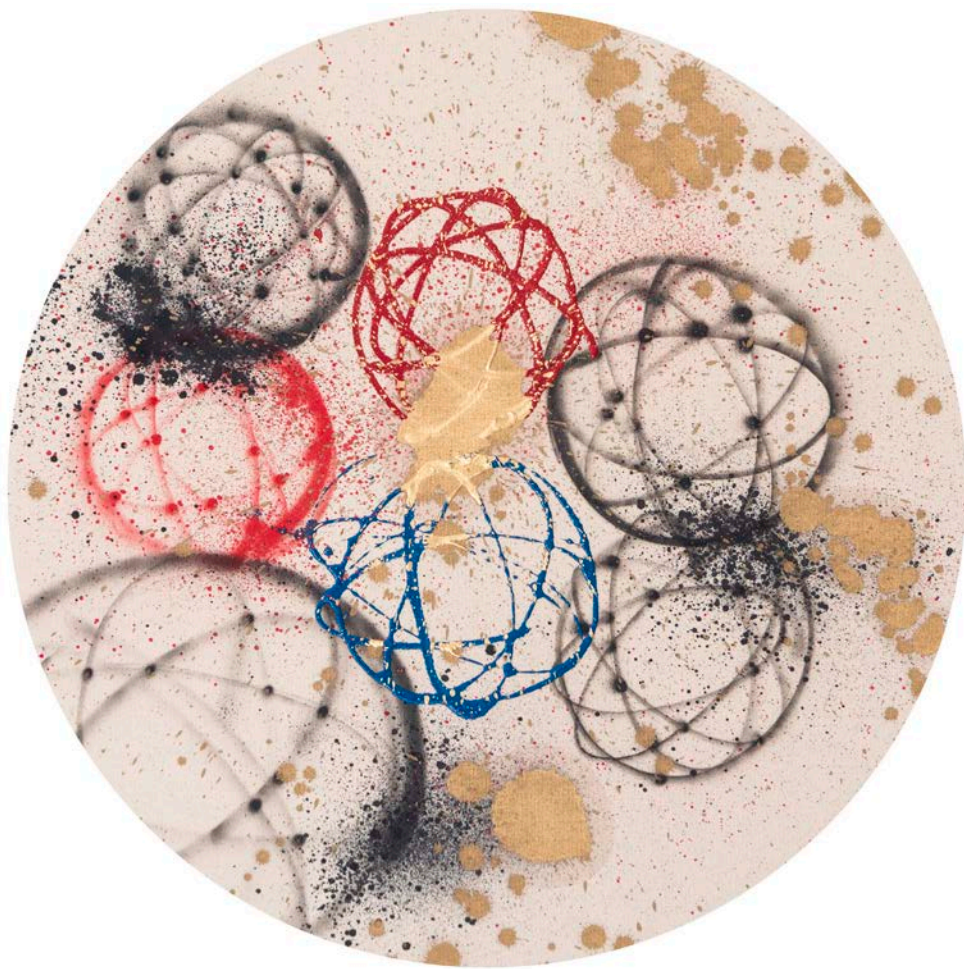


FUTURA2000
ENGLAND, 2022

acrylic, marker, and spray paint on canvas
24h x 24w in
60.96h x 60.96w cm
FF169



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FUTURA2000
OUTBRAM, 2022

acrylic, marker, and spray paint on canvas
24h x 24w in
60.96h x 60.96w cm
FF180





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FUTURA2000

39 Meg, 2022

bronze
47 1/2h x 30 1/2w x 24 1/4d in
120.65h x 77.47w x 61.59d cm
FF117



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FUTURA2000
PEANUTS, 2022

acrylic, marker, spray paint, oil on canvas
60h x 60w in
152.40h x 152.40w cm
FF145



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FUTURA2000
PRETZEL, 2022

acrylic, marker, spray paint, oil on canvas
60h x 60w in
152.40h x 152.40w cm
FF148

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FUTURA2000
OUTFRONTING, 2022

acrylic, marker, and spray paint on canvas
48h x 48w in
121.92h x 121.92w cm
FF165



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FUTURA2000
YAVIN, 2022

spray paint, oil, acrylic on waxed canvas tarp
84h x 60w in
213.36h x 152.40w cm
FF102





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FUTURA2000
HOTH, 2022

spray paint, oil, acrylic, marker on waxed canvas tarp
84h x 60w in
213.36h x 152.40w cm
FF106

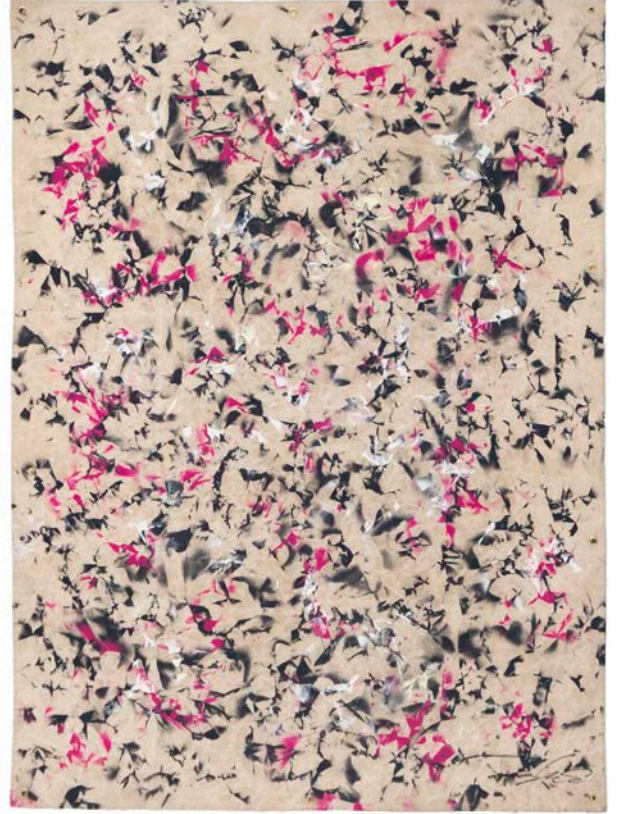


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FUTURA2000
FROLICK, 2022

spray paint on canvas tarp
84h x 60w in
213.36h x 152.40w cm
FF101



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FUTURA2000
ANTIGEN, 2022



spray paint on waxed canvas tarp
69h x 234w in
175.26h x 594.36w cm
FF139





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FUTURA2000
COLLAPSING FACADE, 2021

spray paint and acrylic on canvas
84h x 84w in
213.36h x 213.36w cm
FF090



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FUTURA2000
VERTICAL SPEED, 2021

spray paint and acrylic on canvas
84h x 84w in
213.36h x 213.36w cm
FF091



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FUTURA2000
EYE OF THE STORM, 2022

spray paint on canvas
70h x 88 1/2w x 2d in
177.80h x 224.79w x 5.08d cm
FF097

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FUTURA2000
MAGIC CARPET, 2022

spray paint on canvas tarp
118h x 188 1/2w in
299.72h x 478.79w cm
FF119



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FUTURA2000
Untitled, 2022

spray paint on canvas tarp
118h x 92w in
299.72h x 233.68w cm
FF112

John



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