

## VIRGINIAL JARAMILLO

Foundations by Virginia Jaramillo at Hales Gallery, New York,  
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Virginia Jaramillo, Foundations, Hales New York, 18 October - 8 December 2018. Photo by Stan Narten

“Foundations” is the international debut of paintings completed by the artist in 2018. Jaramillo’s work is currently touring US institutions in blockbuster exhibitions *We Wanted A Revolution: Black Radical Women, 1965–85* (Brooklyn Museum, Californian African American Museum, Albright Knox Gallery, ICA Boston) and *Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power* (Tate Modern, Crystal Bridges, Brooklyn Museum).

Since 2016, Hales Gallery has been at the forefront of promoting a greater understanding of Jaramillo’s rich practice,” a press note by the Gallery states.

“Foundations,” features the journey that Jaramillo has begun breaking away from her previous forms, the smooth and pristine surfaces that she created during her 1970s Japanese lacquerware-inspired curvilinear paintings. “She brilliantly utilized diverse brushstroke techniques and transformed rich, varied and textural surfaces. Her surfaces dwelled in textural interplays where she would develop a texture to distinguish fractured and fragmented forms.”

“In the 1980s body of work by the same title, Jaramillo drew from her ongoing investigations into ancient civilizations— namely, their architecture and belief

systems—to produce large handmade paper works from linen fibers and hand ground earth pigments bearing complex geometric compositions. For this next iteration, Jaramillo focuses in on the intricacies of the structures left behind by these ancient cultures: an in-depth study into the physical and spiritual life of ruin. The works on view take their reference points from contemporary sites of ancient ruin, primarily in, but not limited to, the Middle East and Mexico,” says the gallery.

Her career spans over nearly six decades and through this vast period of time the American artist Virginia Jaramillo has evolved through as she explored abstraction. Her journey in abstraction was initiated through extensive experimentation with material, process, and form. “At the core of her work is what she describes as “an aesthetic investigation into the structure of our physical, spiritual and mental worlds.” Jaramillo’s approach to abstraction has been informed both by her early interest in archaeology, science fiction, and cultural mythologies and her later exposure to various artistic and creative communities in the United States and Europe,” the gallery adds.