

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Bruno Novelli

Turmalinas No Céu

June 29 – July 28, 2018

Opening Reception: Friday, June 29, 6 - 8 pm

Free and open to the public/ Artist in Attendance

David B. Smith Gallery is pleased to welcome back Brazilian painter Bruno Novelli for his second solo exhibition, *Turmalinas No Céu*. Spanning the main gallery and project room, Novelli expands on his visual language defined by luscious colors, tropical imagery, and collage-like layered compositions. Roughly translating to “tourmaline sky,” *Turmalinas No Céu* explores what Novelli terms a “tropical delirium,” a type of aesthetic utopia where imagery imbued with personal meaning materializes into paradisiac landscapes.

Exotic and yet familiarly primal, viewers can feel the pulse of Novelli’s nocturnal jungle scenes. Howler monkeys peer out from behind mountains of sliced agate, while glowing moons coax tropical flowers to bloom. Alongside scenes of fantastical rainforest flora, fauna, and celestial bodies, are smaller canvases that Novelli describes as invitations for introspective experience. In contrast to the spindly jungle scenes of the larger canvases, many of these smaller scale works feature hazy color gradients and slices of Brazilian gemstones sprinkled over the surface, delivering a powerful visual punch.

In full vivid color, overgrown with phosphorescent vegetation, laden with slices of watermelon tourmaline ripe enough to eat, Bruno Novelli’s bricolage of tropical visions travels across the equator and back again in *Turmalinas No Céu*.



Image: Bruno Novelli, *Pedra Azul*, 2018, acrylic on linen, 70 x 58 in (177.8 x 147.32cm).

About Bruno Novelli

Bruno Novelli was born in 1980 in Brazil. Novelli is a founder of the Universidade Autoindicada por Entidades Livres, a loose bundle of classes and training programs created to articulate interdisciplinary artistic research. He has a degree in Graphic Design (ESPM - São Paulo), attended to painting classes at Instituto Tomie Othake (São Paulo) and studied at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. Novelli is also co-founder of Metagrafismo (Metagraphism), an experimental collective exploring the graphic potential of metalinguistics. Novelli’s work has been exhibited in his native Brazil, as well as in England, Denmark, Spain, Japan and the United States. Collective shows include exhibitions at Museu de Arte Contemporânea (Porto Alegre – Brazil), Museu da Imagem e do Som MIS (São Paulo - Brazil), Fundacion OSDE (Buenos Aires - Argentina) and Centro Nacional de Las Artes (Mexico City). His work has been reviewed by *Art in America* and *The New York Times Style Magazine*, among other international publications. Novelli’s paintings feature enigmatic images, in which otherworldly entities, northern figures, dynamic geometric forms, and an encrypted alphabet strangely align. He has a deep interest in Amazonian rituals, the practice of painting, and most recently has participated to an art residency in Amazonia with the art collective MAHKU. Novelli lives and works in São Paulo.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region’s most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Art in America* and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering “an exciting contrast of cutting edge works” and *The Denver Post* declared that it is the “premiere commercial space” in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.