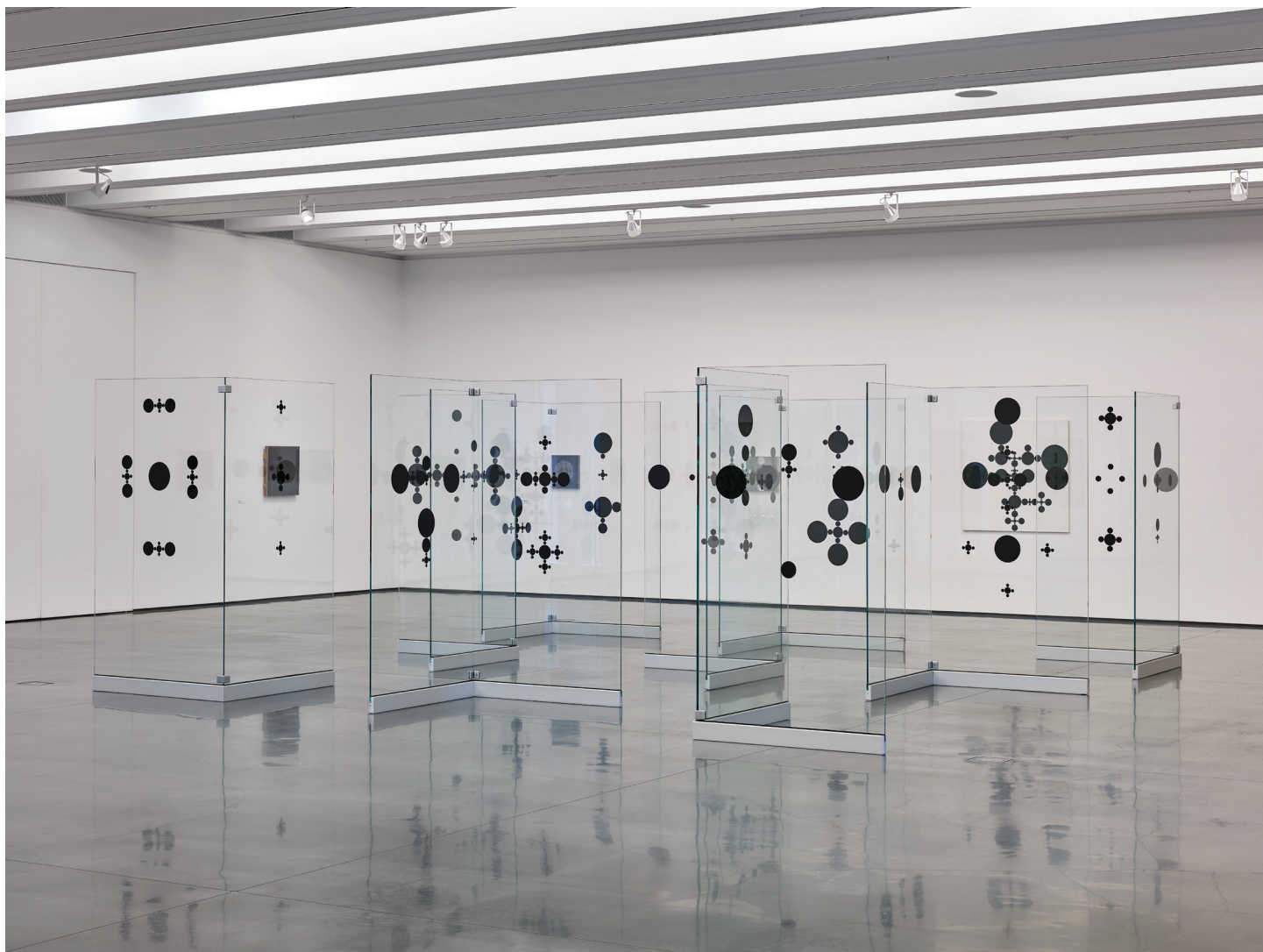


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# Educator Notes

## Gabriel Orozco

July 29–December 18, 2016



Installation view: Gabriel Orozco, 2016. Photo: Tony Prikryl

## **About the artist**

Gabriel Orozco was born in 1962, in Jalapa, Mexico, and currently lives and works between New York, Paris, Tokyo, and Mexico City. He works across different media, often using the world as his studio. His critically acclaimed work explores the poetry of chance encounters while blurring the boundary between art and the everyday. Orozco is the recipient of the 2016 Aspen Award for Art.

## **About the exhibition**

Although Gabriel Orozco has explored various mediums throughout his career, the paintings and sculptures featured in his AAM exhibition present a new body of work—including a series of graphite drawings, aluminum sculptures, and oil and tempera paintings with gold leaf. Many of these new works were created with Aspen and the AAM in mind. The use of circular forms and patterns remind us of the constant motion of our world, and build on his practice of using complex geometry and chance variation. They relate to biology, astronomy, and how we see and move through the world.

In addition to the use of form, color also plays an important role in this exhibition. Many of the paintings feature green, a color the artist has returned to after many years. These works have a strong connection to the Aspen summer landscape, as well as larger human and spiritual themes. There is also a series of paintings that features layered and scratched graphite, alluding to celestial forms and planets. As a total experience, the works in this exhibition not only highlight the artist's interest in geometry as an extension of the natural world and its cycles, but also provide a contemplative environment for the viewer.

## Questions for discussion

- | What does the color green make you think of?
- | What connections can you make between the geometry of these paintings and the geometry of nature?
- | How do you define a cycle? How many different types of cycles do you experience in your life?

## Suggested activity

### Pattern Puzzle

Gather one-inch squares of white paper, graphite pencils, colored pencils, glue sticks, and small pieces of foil or gold leaf.

Give each student at least three squares of white paper and one piece of foil or gold leaf.

Have a discussion about the difference between geometric shapes (circles, squares, and triangles) and organic shapes (irregular and unpredictable).

Ask students to create a geometric shape within each of their paper squares using graphite or colored pencils. Point out that leaving the square blank also creates a geometric shape. Invite students to use a color that they can find in nature to color in their shapes, if they wish. Encourage them to use the foil or gold leaf, as well as the white of the paper.

Find an area of the classroom with enough floor space to arrange the individual artworks into one large square. Look for interesting ways to connect the squares by matching up the colors or shapes.

Once students are pleased with their composition, document the artwork with a camera, and give the artwork a title.

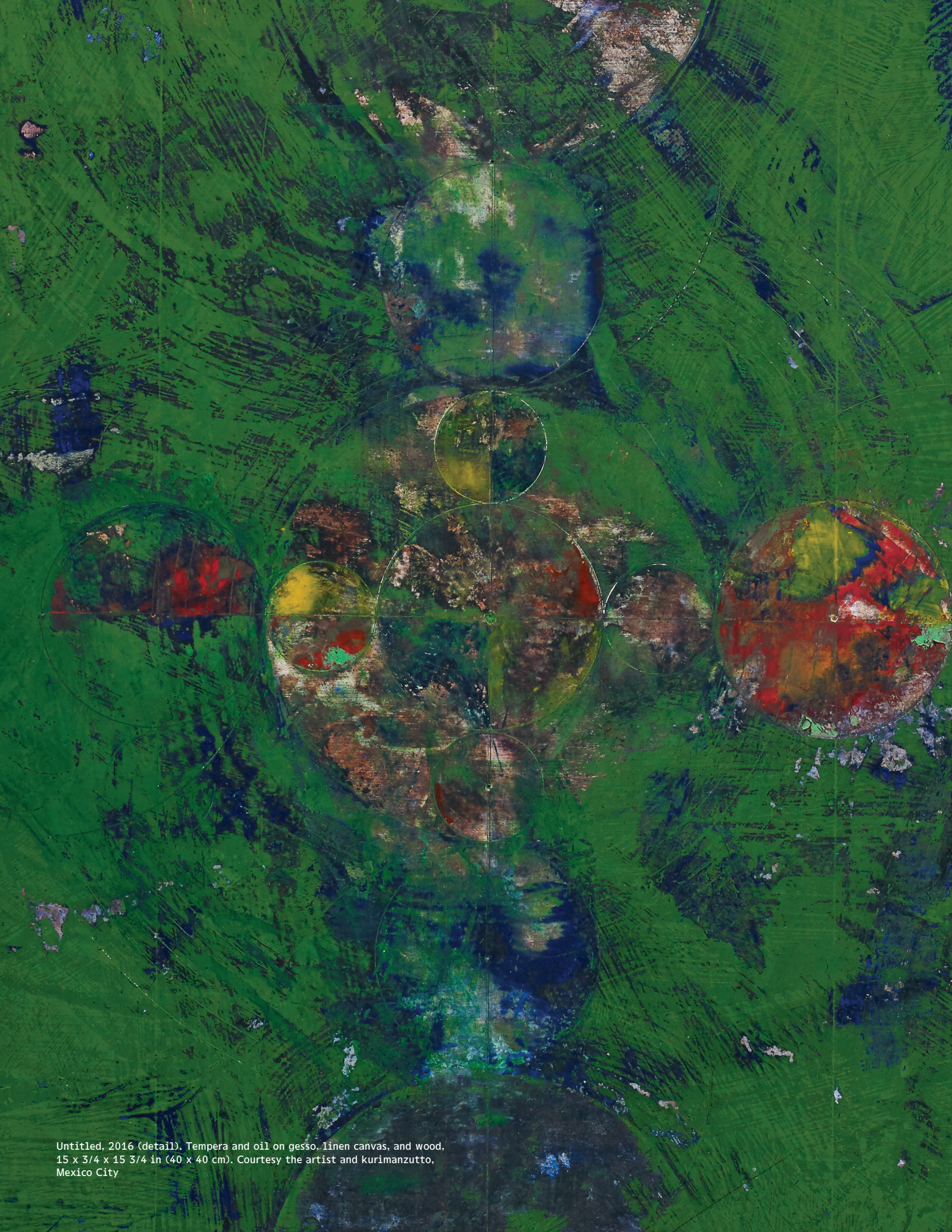
Gain a different perspective by stepping back from the artwork. Discuss observations related to rhythm, movement, order, or chaos.

For more information, please contact the Education Department at 970.925.8050 ext. 133 or email [education@aspenartmuseum.org](mailto:education@aspenartmuseum.org)

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Untitled, 2016 (detail). Tempera and oil on gesso, linen canvas, and wood, 15 x 3/4 x 15 3/4 in (40 x 40 cm). Courtesy the artist and kurimanzutto, Mexico City