In the 1980s, the self-taught Italian artist Domenico Zindato studied law at a university in Rome. However, he changed his focus to cinema and theatre studies before ending his academic career. Then he began to travel and make art. He has lived in Mexico since the late 1990s.

When he first began showing his work in New York in 2000, Zindato made small-format drawings featuring line-drawn human figures, heads, semi-abstract motifs, and written numerals set against brightly coloured backgrounds. They evolved into larger compositions made up of meticulously rendered, miniature-scale patterns drawn on variously shaped patches of vibrant colour. Zindato has created a visual language of such symbol-rich patterns, whose imagery includes human figures, birds, plant forms, geometric motifs, eyeballs, and cell-like structures.

In this exhibition, Zindato presented his new suite of drawings, 31, which consists of 31 medium-size drawings, each one filled with dynamic compositions. Seen from a short distance, they read visually as luminous abstractions made up of randomly shaped colour patches. Viewed up close, they reveal the rich visual textures of their elaborate patterns, which have been drawn on handmade paper from Mexico’s southern Oaxaca region.

In a talk presented at Andrew Edlin Gallery after the opening of this exhibition, Zindato explained that the title of his new suite came from the fact that the album filled with drawing paper he used to make them contained 31 sheets. After finishing the first few drawings, he realised that they all held together in a cohesive, visual-thematic way he referred to as that of “a visual poem.” The artist is also producing a limited quantity of high-quality, digitally printed facsimiles of the entire suite, each of which will come in a handcrafted, cloth-covered box.

Of the images in 31, Zindato says, “They’re all connected by the same energy flow. I think this flow is communicated to viewers as a kind of circulation system, and that they return their own empathetic energy to my art. In this way, they contribute to a constantly circulating flow of positive energy.”

Edward M. Gómez