

PearlLam Galleries

Hong Kong SOHO

Loreta Sáez Franco solo exhibition **'Nostalgia'**



Left: **Untitled Black III**, 2015, Oil on canvas, 91.44 x 91.44 cm
Right: **Disorientation**, 2010, Digital Video, 4' 00"

Exhibition Dates

29 April–11 June, 2015

Monday–Saturday, noon–7pm; Sunday, noon–5pm

Pearl Lam Galleries HK SOHO

Shop No. 1, G/F & 1/F, SOHO 189, 189 Queen's Road West, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

Hong Kong—Pearl Lam Galleries is proud to present its second show at SOHO 189, *Nostalgia*, a solo exhibition by Spanish artist Loreta Sáez Franco. The exhibition will feature 15 of the artist's recent small and medium-scale oil on canvas paintings, along with a black and white video work, that capture Sáez Franco's desire to retrieve the lost innocence from her idealised memories of the past.

Drawing inspiration from the solemnity and spirituality of the Spanish Old Masters, Sáez Franco creates her own poetic imagery that evokes an atmosphere of a lost paradise through a combination of compact and expansive spatula strokes created by systemic body movements. Her overlapping veils of colour create an illusion of indefinite depth, inviting the viewer to look beyond the surface for further meaning.

For the last 15 years, Sáez Franco has been constantly travelling and living in big cities around the world, like New York, London, and Hong Kong, where she currently lives. The artist searches for existential matters by carefully observing the diversity and connections of individuals. She sees metropolises as fascinating yet savage jungles in which human beings are exposed to deep antagonist emotions.

This nomadic way of living has made nostalgia a recurrent resource for the artist's emotional well-being. Like the Greek hero Ulysses from Homer's *The Odyssey*, Sáez Franco draws on memories of family and home to weather difficult periods, although she mostly creates her own imagery of 'non vivid memories' as a private den. Nostalgia, like sorrow and happiness, is a universal feeling that all races, cultures, and ages share and use to confirm identity.

Memories contain pieces of ourselves, while nostalgia evokes a particular sense of time or place. We remember memories in a very selective way, as our brains reinterpret the actuality of events. Nostalgia is a yearning for an idealised past, a longing for an improved impression of it—what in psychoanalysis is referred to as a screen memory. This series is exactly that—a collection of distorted screen memories, the artist's very own 'screen savers' in moments of emotional threat.

The Spanish artist will also present her video work *Disorientation*, which features clips from classic movies directed by Jean-Luc Godard, François Truffaut, Alain Resnais, Fritz Lang, and Wim Wenders, among others. The black and white video evokes questions of belonging, identity, existentialism, and hope, which are all reoccurring subjects in the artist's iconography that come from the same nomadic life as the *Nostalgia* works.

About Loreta Sáez Franco

Loreta Sáez Franco was born in 1976 in Madrid, Spain. She started to paint when she was six years old at her parents' fine art academy, which already gives her three decades of experience in the medium. The artist holds a degree in Therapeutic Pedagogy and a master's degree in Knowledge Management-Humanities, both from Complutense University of Madrid in Spain. Her studies in these disciplines have strongly contributed to the meaning of her creations. Later, she spent a decade living between New York and London, where she updated her studies by attaining certificates of Set Design for Performance, Design & Communication and Contemporary Art from Central Saint Martins, London. Sáez Franco has been constantly pursuing her passion in art. In recent years, she completed a workshop titled "The Unilever Series: Tino Sehgal workshop" offered by Tate Modern. In 2014, she exhibited at the Melbourne Art Fair with Pearl Lam Galleries. Sáez Franco now lives and works in Hong Kong, but is constantly travelling around the world.

Sáez Franco's work is influenced by the dark atmosphere and drama of Goya, the light and serenity of Turner and the French impressionists, the flow and performance of Pollock, along with the spirituality of Rothko. She uses her refined technique to approach deep philosophical and existential matters. Her paintings have neither a beginning nor end. They transmit a certain poetic sensibility, at times full of serenity, at other times full of passion and anger.

The emotional weight of Sáez Franco's latest works instinctively makes viewers feel drained while the energy of her creation process is palpable. The painted surface is embellished with light to echo the dynamism and vigour of her creation. Her strokes are created by a systemic body of movements, which contribute to the visual and spiritual impact of her works. Her paintings invite contemplation and are full of meaning.

The core value of Sáez Franco's art is best represented by traditional Spanish aesthetics, which emphasise the harmony between human beings and religion.

About Pearl Lam Galleries

Founded by Pearl Lam, Pearl Lam Galleries is a driving force within Asia's contemporary art scene. With over 20 years of experience exhibiting Asian and Western art and design, it is

one of the leading and most established contemporary art galleries to be launched out of China.

Playing a vital role in stimulating international dialogue on Chinese and Asian contemporary art, the Galleries is dedicated to championing artists who re-evaluate and challenge perceptions of cultural practice from the region. The Galleries in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Singapore collaborate with renowned curators, each presenting distinct programming from major solo exhibitions, special projects and installations to conceptually rigorous group shows. Based on the philosophy of Chinese Literati where art forms have no hierarchy, Pearl Lam Galleries is dedicated to breaking down boundaries between different disciplines, with a unique gallery model committed to encouraging cross-cultural exchange.

Contemporary Chinese Abstract art is heavily represented in the Galleries roster. Influential Chinese artists Zhu Jinshi and Su Xiaobai, who synthesise Chinese sensibilities with an international visual language, are presented internationally with work now included in major private and public collections worldwide. The Galleries has also introduced leading international artists such as Jenny Holzer, Jim Lambie and Yinka Shonibare MBE (RA) to markets in the region, providing opportunities for new audiences in Asia to encounter their work. Pearl Lam Galleries encourages international artists to create new work, which engages specifically with the region—collaborating to produce thought-provoking and culturally relevant work.

Press Enquiries

Moxian Sun / Pearl Lam Galleries
moxian@pearllamfineart.com / +8621 6323 1989

Rosanna Cator / Sutton PR Asia
rosanna@suttonprasiasia.com / +852 9682 5271