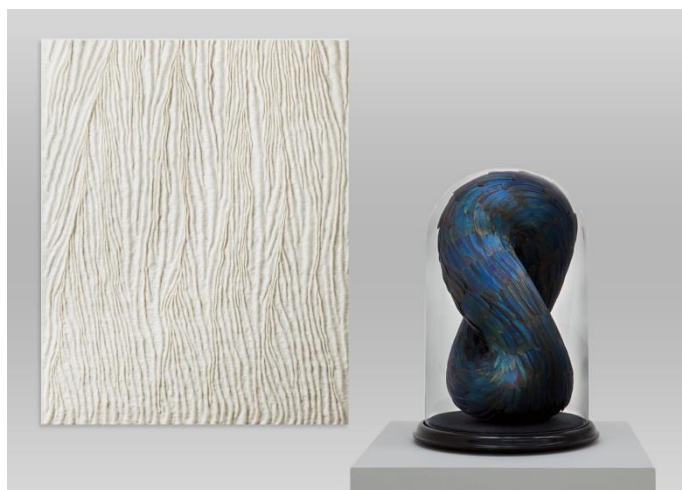




## **Puerta Roja Celebrates Eighth Anniversary with *Reflections*, a Milestone Group Exhibition Presented in Collaboration with Local and International Partner Galleries**

Staged jointly with six partnerships with like-minded pioneering galleries from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore, Korea, Chile and Belgium, *Reflections* will be on view from 12 September to 25 October 2018. This eclectic group exhibition uncovers cross-cultural connections and creative dialogues.



(left) *Lejunare #07*, Estratum Series, Javier León Pérez, Japanese paper on board, acrylic case, 2018  
(right) *Whorl*, Kate MccGwire, Mixed media with Magpie feathers in antique dome, 2013

**Hong Kong – 9 August 2018** – To mark Puerta Roja's eighth anniversary, the gallery curates a group exhibition dedicated to cross-cultural conversations and creative collaborations. *Reflections* presents outstanding painting and sculptural works by twelve artists that create a visible and invisible dialogue between Puerta Roja's stable of artists and the talent brought together by six partnerships from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore, Chile, Korea and Belgium.

Opening to the public on 12 September at Puerta Roja's gallery space in SOHO 189 Art Lane, *Reflections* is curated to highlight the growing dialogue and interconnectedness across regions, generations as well as diverse artistic genres. The striking relationships in the exhibition bring to light a global collective consciousness no longer defined by distance, nationality or medium.

From the post war masters' generation, the show presents two representatives of the Op & Kinetic and Dansaekhwa art movements: Franco-Venezuelan Carlos Cruz-Diez alongside Korean Choi Myoung-young in collaboration with The Page Gallery (Korea) and Soluna Fine Art (Hong Kong). Choi Myoung-Young is one of the most respected artists from the Dansaekhwa movement, his monochrome work exploring spiritual undertones is juxtaposed with the multi-chrome scientific based work of the master of colour Cruz-Diez.

The meditative Japanese paper works by Spanish artist Javier León Pérez resonate with the coiled feather sculptures by the British artist Kate McGwire, recently awarded the Jack Goldhill Award for sculpture presented by The Royal Academy of Arts (Galerie Huit, Hong Kong). Both artworks of Pérez and McGwire speak of an obsession with the geometry of nature. *Looms*, the painstakingly detailed pencil drawings by María García-Ibáñez, explore memory and intimacy through everyday objects as much as the intuitive acrylic on canvas works by the emerging Indonesian artist Wayan Novi (Art Porters, Singapore). Volume, light and three-dimensionality



are called into play through the geometric forms of the Argentinean collective Ventoso along with the organically unfolding works by Italian artist Paola Pezzi (Art'Loft, Lee-Bauwens Gallery, Belgium).

Introspection coupled with the emotional charge of self and family portraiture, come to light in the yarn-covered sculptures by Héctor Velázquez and the hand-embroidered family photographs by the Chilean artist Juana Gómez (Isabel Croxatto Galeria, Chile). A poetic and alluring juxtaposition is the pairing of the gravity-defying bamboo sculptures by Laurent Martin "Lo" with the brightly-coloured geometric abstractions on canvas by British-Indonesian artist Sinta Tantra's (ISA Art Advisory, Indonesia). The perfect balance of simplicity of line and use of negative space in both works are amplified by the evident contrast of technique and material.

Over the past eight years, Puerta Roja has continued its mission to expand the appreciation of Latin American and Spanish art across Asia Pacific as well as increase the awareness of the region's rich contribution to the global art landscape. Through its regional focus and carefully selected artists, the gallery has advocated for untold narratives and universal social perspectives relevant to Asian audiences, with artworks often executed in Asia or created in the spirit of Asian philosophies. Beneath the concentrated programme of exhibitions, talks and community engagement initiatives, lies a deep desire to create cultural bridges and promote universal ideals that go far beyond the national context. Through this underlying philosophy, Puerta Roja displays its commitment towards enriching Hong Kong's cultural scene and reflecting its hybrid nature. The exhibition is not only a celebration of the gallery's success but also an accolade to the close professional and personal relationships that have been a determinant factor along the way.

**Puerta Roja's Founder and Director** as well as the **current Co-President of the Hong Kong Art Gallery Association (HKAGA), Adriana Alvarez-Nichol**, comments: *"Since establishing Puerta Roja in 2010, I have been lucky to meet outstanding like-minded gallerists and artists whose pioneering efforts and artistic discourse have not only influenced our development but also inspired us. By inviting some of those galleries to co-curate this joint exhibition we all make a statement on the power of collaborations and cross-cultural dialogue. The hidden but strong connections between our different artists will create an eclectic and strong exhibition that challenges traditional categorisations or demarcations for galleries' exhibitions.*

*As one of the founders of the Hong Kong Art Gallery Association, I am a firm believer that galleries can benefit each other, their artists and their clients by finding common ground. I believe that the forces of decentralization in the art market, artists' global aspirations and the growth and increasing sophistication of Asian collectors create challenges, but also new opportunities. By working together, we are all better able to harness them. Through collaboration, rather than competition, we continue to strive to redefine obsolete rigid barriers in the art world."*

Puerta Roja's anniversary exhibition *Reflections* will remain on view from 12 September through to 25 October 2018.

- End -

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## NOTES TO EDITORS:

### **Reflections**

12 September – 25 October 2018

Puerta Roja, 1F, SOHO189 Art Lane, 189 Queen's Road West, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

### **About Puerta Roja, Hong Kong**

Puerta Roja was founded by Adriana Alvarez-Nichol in 2010 pioneering the promotion of established and emerging contemporary Latin American and Spanish artists in Asia-Pacific. Puerta Roja focuses on exhibitions that expand the understanding of Latin American artists' contribution to the development of global art movements, selecting artists whose discourse remains relevant to Asia Pacific. Its programming has introduced master's works from Mexican modernism to South American geometric abstraction such as Siqueiros, Carrington, Asís, Tomasello and Cruz-Diez. The gallery supports the internationalisation of emerging artists and has presented ground-breaking new media installations by Miguel Chevalier as well as works by conceptual artists such as Carlos Aguirre, Carlos Amorales and TRES Collective. Exhibitions are regularly accompanied by a talk and community engagement programme.

Puerta Roja is firmly rooted in Hong Kong and prides itself in developing bridges that further the regional ecosystem and the local art scene. Its regional focus helps develop deep relationships with established collectors across Asia Pacific and nurture the next generation of collectors. Puerta Roja has significantly broadened its collector base by bringing top international standards to regional art fairs in Indonesia, Taiwan, Korea and Australia. It also collaborates with international collectors, galleries, and dealers representing Latin American and Spanish artists and contributes to their efforts in Asia Pacific. Puerta Roja also intermediates in the secondary market, primarily between Asian and Latin American collections. The gallery proudly supports Para Site, Neptune, the Sovereign Art Foundation and regularly contributes to other social and environmental charities.

Adriana is a founding Board member and the new Co-President of the Hong Kong Art Gallery Association in 2018. She also represents Hong Kong at the Asia Pacific Art Gallery Alliance and is a standing judge for the Women of Influence Awards in the Masters of the Arts category.

### **About Art'Loff, Lee-Bauwens Gallery, Belgium**

Founded in 2012 by Minyoung Lee and Gil Bauwens, the gallery's goal is to reveal and promote artists who are mostly coming from the Korean art scene, but also to show European artists' works in Korea, through exhibitions or art events. As a curator, Minyoung Lee works closely with art institutions and museums and organizes exhibitions such as TEAF 2014 (Taehwa River Eco Art Festival) in Ulsan, 3rd Identity Hybrid 2010 in Jeju Museum of Contemporary Art, Boarding Bridge 2009 in Seoul Kring Kumho Museum, Dissipation and Return 2009 in Seoul Metro Museum, or Age of Fragrance 2008 in Dae-Jeon Asia Museum.

### **About Art Porters, Singapore**

Art Porters Gallery believes in the unique power of art in transforming lives. Rooted in their founder's personal experience with a life-changing masterpiece, the gallery's mission in sharing happiness with art was born. The gallery is housed in a charming Peranakan shophouse in one of the quaintest neighbourhoods of Singapore. Their work focuses on contemporary art and develops privileged relationships with international artists, whose works are presented in various forms of media, including drawing, painting, sculpture, photography and digital animation. They also provide art consultancy for various corporations and hold events for a wide variety of clients.

### **About Galerie Huit, Hong Kong**

Galerie Huit is a commercial art gallery focusing on emerging to mid-career international contemporary artists. Directed by Jane Chao Lee and Yas Mostashari Chang, the programme introduces unique perspectives to Asia Pacific.

### **About Isabel Croxatto Galeria, Chile**

The gallery was founded in December of 2012 by Isabel Croxatto, choreographer and cultural manager, who after 35 years of experience in national and international circuits, aimed to contribute a fresh view to the Chilean visual arts scene. Creating a contemporary fine art space, the gallery focuses on emerging and mid-career artists with a distinguished national and international recognition. Isabel Croxatto Galeria, places emphasis on promoting the work of artists in Chile and abroad. By inspiring innovative and trend-setting projects, she encourages new forms of art collection, opening new markets for contemporary art. The gallery engages in national and international collaborations with artists, curators, art collectors, public and private art institutions. Additionally, Isabel Croxatto Galeria regularly participates in recognised international contemporary art fairs such as Ch.ACO (Chile), Art Lima (Peru), Zona Maco (México,) Sydney Contemporary (Australia), Contemporary Istanbul (Turkey), and Art Central (Hong Kong).

### **About ISA Art Advisory, Indonesia**

Founder and Principal of ISA Art Advisory, Deborah Iskandar brings more than 20 years experiences in art consultation and management expertise, previously heading both Sotheby's and Christie's Indonesia during her career before establishing ISA Art Advisory in 2013. ISA Art Advisory offers the complete range of art consultation services from



strategy and planning, to procurement, installation and insurance. With expertise in international and south east Asian art, and a passion for Indonesian modern and contemporary art, we assist our clients to build their collections.

#### **About Soluna Fine Art, Hong Kong**

Soluna Fine Art is the pioneering purveyor of Asian fine art in Hong Kong, specialized in Asian contemporary objects, paintings, works on paper and fine art photography. The mission is to revitalize the concept of Eastern aesthetics by promoting works that brings traditional value with contemporary interpretations. Soluna Fine Art emphasizes the idea of essential meaning and tradition of Asian fine art that incorporated a wide variety of cultural influences throughout history. It is their goal to provide platforms for art that goes beyond boundaries of cross-cultural encounters. Soluna Fine Art showcases established and emerging artists through art exhibitions, fairs, educational programs, multi-disciplinary collaborations on an international level. Works sold by Soluna Fine Art are owned by private collectors and art museums around the world. Soluna Fine Art is soon to open a new space focusing on Korean artists in Hong Kong.

#### **About The Page Gallery, Korea**

The Page Gallery has held many successful exhibitions of modern and classic art, expressionism, neo-expressionism, abstract expressionism, conceptual art as well as representatives of European and American figurative arts. Prominent exhibitions include the first Hundertwasser exhibition in Korea, and Sam Francis exhibition in collaboration with the Sam Francis Foundation, conceptual art master On Kawara as well world-renowned sculptors Yves Klein and Anish Kapoor. To fulfil its role as an Asian ground for discovering Korean and Asian artists, it has also introduced Chinese contemporary art in Korea. With upcoming exhibitions, The Page Gallery aims to introduce leading contemporary artists of the world to Korea and introduce talented Korean artists to the international art scene, being a 'window of communication' for shared appreciation.