



Press Release

Locality & Aesthetics

Solo Exhibition by Maria Veronica Leon Veintemilla

Executive summery:

Location	Newly opened Cube Arts Creative Center, Gate Village 08, DIFC, Dubai
Show Title	Locality & Aesthetics
Duration	May 14, 2014 till June 14, 2014
Art works	Painting
Artist	Maria Veronica Leon Veintemilla

Exhibition:



Maria Veronica, *Identity Crystallization*, 100x150 cm, 2014

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In the face of globalization and the commercial saturation of conventional societies, there is a drive to create or “contrive” the new and distinct. This, in turn, leads to the formation of transcendental communion - one such example being, the United Arab Emirates.

The exhibition, organized by Cube Arts, assembles works by internationally claimed artist 'Maria Veronica' set out for a spiritual journey, in order to seek new artistic challenges. Her paintings and drawings are reflection of the visual charm and fragrance of the "foreign region", the pictorial translation of sunlight, and the rendering of heat, as well as the changes brought about by these phenomena in the social landscape.

Locality & Aesthetics, celebrates the miracle of a poetic beauty, and puts forward the idea of "the moments of ambition"¹.

1. Charles Baudelaire, *Le Spleen de Paris*, 1869

Text about the Artist – Maria Veronica:

Maria Veronica Leon, the unravelling thread,

Her pen moves quickly, blackening the blank page, threads overlapping, stretching and finally taking shape. The organic joins the plant world, pouring out sap, the female body is a secret landscape, a palpitating constellation, a changing topography, a tapestry recounting intimate stories.

It's the family of Valentine Hugo, Unica Zün, Dora Maar, Léonore Fini, Toyen, and all those whose names have been forgotten, whose line Maria Veronica Leon continues. She belongs to the family of women who brought awareness of the female inner consciousness to the history of art.

Woman considers herself of the cosmos, feels she is part of the telluric and chthonian forces; she is the incarnation of nature.

Maria Veronica instinctively interprets the female body like a living spring, ceaselessly contorting and recomposing itself.

Her drawings are of the utmost precision. Having lived and worked with Pina Bausch's dance company, she was able to embody in her drawings the energy driving the movements and spirit of the German choreographer. Her drawings develop the dreamlike quality of the body depicted, the metaphor of the being belonging to the universal vibration.

The Ecuadorian artist secretes thread like an insect, like Penelope working on her interminable creation. Guts, nerves, arteries, synapses, this is the living nature of the

troubled body, the loving body, the lascivious body, the offered body and the body dancing.

She draws the symbolic thread, Ariana's thread, entering the intimate labyrinth, the feminine condition, the above and the below blending into one.

Her paintings inherit this pen stroke which goes on into infinity and is peculiar to her. In her portrait gallery, you're drawn in by the details of the richly worked costumes, the thread increasing the complexity of its turns and blending with colour:

Bits of abstract lace, fluted threads, come together and separate, creepers, complicated and gilded textures; the artist comes from a country where gold symbolises the sun and the silver is moon dust.

Does she retain a memory of this special system of writing that consisted of knots made in woollen cords?

Incan dignitaries used quipu to record the economic and demographic data of the regions they managed and chaskis, the messengers and deliverymen of the kingdom, used them as a map for their routes.

Maria Veronica Leon undoes all the knots of the history of the Incas, adjusting her threads to other artistic languages, like Klimt who brought a glow to the Ravenna mosaics in the reborn modern Vienna.

In her recent canvases, the face of her figures disappears behind a sophisticated mask. Long entangled threads and umbilical cords make and remake the spun thread, and, like Frida Kahlo, the spinner seals the history of her own life. A work of memory like an abstract tapestry with the vibrant colours, the fiery colours reminiscent of the hell in the illuminations of the *Hortus deliciarum* compiled by Herrade de Landsberg.

Video is her other means of expression. It's a means of expression for travellers like me, says the artist.

What difference is there between one medium and another when we want to say something about us?

And once again, it's always the organic palpitation she portrays.

In Pinky, the sequence of images is measured and emphasised by sound.

This video is subtly made, with a sequence of abstract, gelatinous and humid images, like a story with a beginning and an end. Like in her drawings, the artist blurs the boundaries, the internal and the external blend together. Unlike the worrying strangeness in the Surrealist imagination, in this video, she is describing the

strangeness of pleasures.

Liquidity as a theme, as a material, is present in her videos as well as the memory of gold harking back to the origins of a royal Ecuador.

Of all the cities in Europe where she's stayed, only the city of Venice pays homage to both water and gold, to these two elements overlapping in their symbolism.

In this city, wrote Honoré de Balzac, they're richer than the ten richest houses in Amsterdam, or London, richer than the Rothschilds, in fact richer than the Thousand and One Nights (Palace).

As for her video entitled White Tea-White, her reverie revolves around the *mandorle*, or the mystical almond symbolising the passage from one world to another, the passage from the interior to the exterior, the passage from burgeoning secrecy to the obviousness of the day.

Ileana Cornea Paris March 2008

Art critic and curator

Cube Arts Creative Center

Cube Arts Center is a creative space in DIFC Dubai devoted to promote a true authentic image at an international scale.

Mission

Our main focus is on Art from the Gulf, Cube Arts takes strong responsibility on announcing universal message rooting in the Middle Eastern region. Establishing a branch in the prime location of Dubai DIFC, where the contemporary Art Scene is growing and flourishing, Cube Arts represent a unique cultural statement.

We believe that the current image of Art in the region is falsely fabricated as a reflective image of the Modern Media. We are looking for unity in networking with the individuals, art institutions, cultural centres, that share the same vision for a nearest future's art movement.



His Highness Sheikh Majid Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum at Cube Arts Gallery, 'DEEP' Opening show, March 2014

Company Overview

Cube Arts was launched in London in 2010 as a cross-cultural organization with a view to engage and promote inspirational interactions, with a view to foster education and inspire learning. As an idea, Cube Arts finds its core within the introduction of

artists to applied arts that has its roots within the realm of Islamic Arts, seen today in the magnificent heritage left by Islamic artists. Cube Arts sees itself as an inheritor of this great tradition by focusing on contemporary art, with a focus on Arab and Islamic art and artists.

Description

As a function, Cube Arts serves to be a platform wherein all stakeholders of the creative arts can intermingle and experience the many different facets of the arts and cultures. This intersection is exemplified as a bridge between the arts and global cultures, the physical platform of which is best represented in a Contemporary Art Gallery and Creative Centre.

As a gallery and center, the space showcases the different talents of emerging artists as well as more established artists in their respective fields. The space also is a platform to engage artists, and host different projects with a view to enrich and support the culture in the region.

Cube Arts aims to create an awareness of art and culture within the region. Through its local knowledge, Cube Arts aims to be open to world culture while being authentic. And as a fundamental ethos of any exhibition Cube Arts simultaneously develops an education program, implements an out reach program, holds a series of talks and lectures, in addition to showcasing special features of [the] exhibit.

For further information please visit www.cube-arts.com, for other enquiries please contact info@cube-arts.com