

L.C. ARMSTRONG : ISLAND PAINTINGS 7 AUGUST – 16 AUGUST, 2017 OPENING
RECEPTION: TUESDAY, 8 AUGUST, 8 - 10 PM
Bellonio Cultural Center, Santorini, Greece

The Directors of Vandiri Art NYC are pleased to announce the upcoming exhibition of *LC Armstrong: Island Paintings* at the Bellonio Cultural Center, Santorini, Greece. The exhibition will open on 8 August 2017 with a reception from 8 – 10 pm. The exhibition will continue through August 16.

Comprised of 14 vibrant paintings, *Island Paintings* provides a 10-year perspective of Armstrong's island motifs and continues Armstrong's explorations of nature and Magical Realism. The curated paintings depict bright, intensely detailed flowers over oceans and lakes creating maximalist landscapes populated by animals and human figures, both real and imagined.

Armstrong's practice of layering acrylic or oil on linen panels imparts a luminosity and a pearly, otherworldly glow to her works. Radiance often comes from an imposing sun and the flowers that populate the paintings loom larger than life and are often improbably bright. Equally as surreal, and at home in any climate, are Armstrong's peacocks, flamingos and hummingbirds that populate her paintings. A canvas by Armstrong might be 20 x 16 inches or stretch to eight feet long, and each is epic in the story it tells. Stylized portraits of friends, family and figures from history are poignantly presented and are often rife with symbolic importance.

The exhibition will include two earlier 2008 paintings, *Orchids and Irises Over Oracles* and *Passion Flower Over Paradise Pool*, depicting exotic flora with her signature bomb fuses as stems over water. Armstrong's pioneering use of bomb fuse markings on canvas is catalogued in the video "BRIDGE - New York Artist L.C. Armstrong - Painting to the Core" accompanying the exhibition. These works materialize Armstrong's exploration of alluring, transient and fragile beauty – a depiction, and a warning, of temporality.

Armstrong's colorful depictions of magical worlds are compassionate and inclusive – an antidote to the currency of entropy. The 2011 paintings *Sunrise Over Paradise*, *Sunrise in the Garden* and *Isles of the Night Bloomers* depict the harmonic effect of nature with modern realities of personal island separateness – floating Edward Hick's Quaker ideals in *Peaceable Kingdom* out to sea.

Featured in the exhibition is the monumental diptych, *Blossoms Over Bow Bridge*, a soft and ethereal landscape of Central Park located on the island of Manhattan. The serene and harmonious composition of nature provides a contrast to the looming, man-made structures seen in the background, the space beyond the park. The artist creates an artificial landscape within this "walled paradise," where the water and the natural world becomes the subject of Armstrong's escapist vision. The more recent 2016 acrylic on linen works, *Cattleya Over Couple*, *Flowers Over Flow Ers* and *Sunset Over Cymbidium* transfuse magical realism into nature's everyday lifescapes.

Born in Humboldt, Tennessee, Armstrong completed two degrees from Pasadena's Art College Center of Design and San Francisco's Art Institute, while customizing vans, motorcycles, airplanes and hot rod cars, perfecting her technique and supporting herself through school. In 1991, Armstrong was the recipient of a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant and in that same year her work was included in The Corcoran Biennial. After her first solo show in Cologne, Germany in 1991, Armstrong exhibited at White Columns in 1992 and in 1993 she was included in the 9th Biennale of Sydney. Over the following 30 years, Armstrong has continued to show regularly with galleries in New York, Washington, Frankfurt and Paris. Armstrong's most recent solo exhibition was presented by Marlborough Gallery, New York in February 2017.

Armstrong's work has been included in significant thematic exhibitions, including *Twisted: Urban and Visionary Landscapes in Contemporary Painting* at the Van Abbe Museum in the Netherlands; *Open House*, at the Brooklyn Museum and *Flower Power*, Musée des Beaux Arts, Lille. Armstrong's work can be found in many important permanent collections such as the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; Harvard University, Cambridge; The Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City and the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC, among others. Armstrong is represented by Marlborough Gallery in New York City.

An illustrated catalogue will be available at the time of the exhibition and a video, *Bridge*, by Paul H.O. about Armstrong's artistic practice will be on view.

The Bellonio Cultural Foundation, is located in Fira, Santorini Island, Cyclades, Greece.

PRESS RELEASE

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