

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DONNA HUANCA SOLO PRESENTATION AT FRIEZE LONDON 2019



**3 - 6 OCTOBER 2019
BOOTH E6**

On the occasion of the 2019 edition of Frieze London, Simon Lee Gallery is proud to present a new and immersive installation comprising painting, sculpture, sound and scent by Bolivian-American artist Donna Huanca. The presentation at Frieze combines a number of linked elements of the artist's practice, to create a holistic, immersive experience for the viewer, who is invited to navigate the booth through dunes of pure white sand. Huanca's unique aesthetic absorbs a network of references, which centre around the human body and its relationship to space, gender and identity, as well as the cultural, social and linguistic traditions of her Inca-Andean ancestry. Via her interdisciplinary practice – in which performance plays an integral part – Huanca crafts a visual language rooted in collaboration and innovation.

Huanca's two-dimensional painting practice is fundamentally connected to the performative elements of her work. In six new 'skin' paintings, photographs of her performers' bodies are blown up and transposed to canvas, where they are re-worked with paint. During this process, Huanca engages with the colours and forms painted on her models, resulting in an interaction between the ephemeral choreography of performance art and the permanence of painting. Three new steel sculptures are installed alongside the paintings, which with their totemic proportions and anthropomorphic compositions, act almost as surrogates for Huanca's performers. The viewer's total sensorial response to the environment is amplified by a single-channel sound piece and a custom scent inspired by the fragrance of Palo Santo, a holy tree native to South America widely used in ritual purification ceremonies.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Donna Huanca

Donna Huanca was born in Chicago, IL in 1980 and lives and works in Berlin, Germany. She studied at the Städelschule, Frankfurt, Germany as well as the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME and has been the recipient of the DAAD Artist Frankfurt and a Fulbright research grant. In 2019 Huanca has been the subject of two major large-scale exhibitions, *OBSIDIAN LADDER* at the Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles, CA and *LENGUA LLORONA* at Copenhagen Contemporary, Copenhagen, Denmark. She has previously had solo exhibitions at the Belvedere Museum, Vienna, Austria (2018); Yuz Museum, Shanghai, China, (2018) and at the Zabudowicz Collection, London, UK (2016).

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About Simon Lee Gallery

Founded in London in 2002, Simon Lee Gallery represents artists of diverse generations whose practices explore a wide range of media, from sculpture and painting to video and photography, and who share a broad interest in an exploration of the conceptual. Aiming to provide a significant international audience for its artists, the gallery also regularly punctuates its programme with historical exhibitions and curated group shows, which present shifts in contemporary art practice and thought, whilst broadening the dialogue with artists outside of the gallery's core programme. In addition to its UK activity, in 2012 the gallery opened a space in Hong Kong, which introduced its artists to a wider public in Asia, with a fully independent programme. In 2014, Simon Lee Gallery opened an office and private viewing space in New York. In 2017, this space was re-launched with a year-round programme of exhibitions and events, showcasing the work of emerging and established artists in dynamic group and solo exhibitions.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter: @SimonLeeGallery
www.simonleegallery.com

Image: Donna Huanca, *AMYLOPLAST*, 2019, Oil, sand, synthetic hair on steel, 201 x 189 x 83 cm (79 1/8 x 74 3/8 x 32 5/8 in.). Courtesy the artist, Simon Lee Gallery and Peres Projects, Berlin.

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