

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARILYN MINTER



6 JUNE - 13 JULY 2019

Simon Lee Gallery is proud to present the European premiere of New York-based artist Marilyn Minter's video work *My Cuntry 'Tis of Thee* (2018). This is the artist's debut exhibition with the gallery and her first solo presentation in the UK in thirty years.

For nearly four decades, Minter's provocative practice has dismantled the hierarchies of glamour, power, desire, beauty and sexuality that dominate contemporary consumer culture. Feminism and sexual politics provide the context for a body of work that encompasses painting, photography and video, amongst other visual and political tactics, in the creation of alluring images that unpack strategies of seduction appropriated from the media. Minter's hyper-realist paintings of magnified body parts in high-gloss enamel on metal explore the fetishistic representation of women's bodies throughout the history of art and in visual culture while opening up new dialogues surrounding eroticism and agency.

In *My Cuntry 'Tis of Thee* women write the word 'cunt' in various guises into condensation on a glass pane. Hidden by the semi-opacity of the steam, as the women articulate each letter their features are gradually revealed. Placing a word widely acknowledged as amongst the most offensive in the English language into the hands of each of the women in her video, Minter reclaims it from chauvinistic associations and rescues it from centuries of censorship and degradation. Although etymologically the word 'cunt' can be traced back to expressions relating to femininity, its meaning has been corrupted into a term of abuse that traces the misogyny inherent to Western culture's attitude to female sexuality and the language with which it is described.

12 BERKELEY STREET
LONDON W1J 8DT
T +44 (0) 20 7491 0100
F +44 (0) 20 7491 0200
INFO@SIMONLEEGALLERY.COM

SIMON LEE GALLERY LTD
REGISTERED IN ENGLAND 4316341
GB 788 061 692

NOTES TO EDITORS**About Marilyn Minter**

Marilyn Minter was born in Shreveport, LA in 1948 and lives and works in New York, NY. She received her B.F.A. from the University of Florida and her M.F.A. from Syracuse University. In 2015 Minter was the subject of a major retrospective entitled *Pretty/Dirty* at the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX, which travelled to the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, CO; the Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA; and the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY. Recent solo exhibitions include the Center for Contemporary Art, Cincinnati, OH (2009); La Conservera, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Ceutí/Murcia, Spain (2009); Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland, OH (2010); and the Deichtorhallen, Hamburg, Germany (2011). Her video *Green Pink Caviar* was exhibited in the lobby of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY in 2010, and was also shown on digital billboards on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles, CA and the Creative Time MTV billboard in Times Square, New York, NY. In 2006, Minter was featured in the Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY.

Further to her studio practice, Minter is an activist whose protest art has brought attention to major political issues. She currently serves on the advisory committee of Downtown for Democracy, a political action group founded by creative people that advocates to transform cultural influence into political power. In 2015, she received Planned Parenthood's Women of Valor Award in honour of her initiative Choice Works, which raises money via auctions of contemporary artists' work. In total, Minter has raised over 3 million dollars for the health organisation. In 2017, Minter conceived of a pop-up shop at the Brooklyn Museum in collaboration with the curator and art historian Andrianna Campbell that sold artist-designed, resistance-themed merchandise, with proceeds distributed to charities of the featured artists' choice.

About Simon Lee Gallery

Founded in Mayfair, London in 2002, Simon Lee Gallery represents artists of diverse generations whose practices range 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, helping to introduce 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 2017, the New York space was re-launched with an independent 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: Marilyn Minter, *My Cuntry 'Tis of Thee*, 2018. HD Digital Video. Duration 9:46. Courtesy of the artist, Simon Lee Gallery, London / Hong Kong and Salon 94, New York.

For further press information, images and requests please contact Haniya Bhatti: haniya@simonleegallery.com / +44 (0) 207 491 0100.

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