

GEOMETRY & COLOUR : GIO PONTI - BEA SARRIAS

Michèle Schoonjans Gallery is pleased to present "Geometry & Colour : Gio Ponti", Bea Sarrias' first solo exhibition at the gallery.

The opening of this exhibition will coincide with the inauguration of the Gallery's extension, being undertaken by the Zazie Maquet studio (architect & interior design).

The exhibition focuses on capturing the essence of light, colour, and textures of the materials used by the renowned Milanese architect and designer Gio Ponti (1891-1979), synonymous at the time with the symbol of modernity, using geometry as a compositional tool.

The artist Bea Sarrias takes a creative approach, allowing her paintings to combine with each other, creating new compositions and providing viewers the opportunity to actively participate in the experience.

In the exhibition, most of the dimensions of the paintings are multiples of 3, making them easy to combine. In addition, pentptych and triptych works are featured, which can function alone or in conjunction with others. This strategy invites viewers to explore and experiment with the arrangement of the works, encouraging them to generate their own visual interpretation.

Gio Ponti, a design humanist and creator of the legendary *Domus* magazine, confessed, "The most resistant element is not cement, wood, stone, steel, glass. The most resistant element in building is art." With this poetic spirit, he designed what is considered his masterpiece, Villa Planchart (1953-1957), in Caracas (Venezuela), where every detail of the house, furniture, and even the tableware is a clear demonstration of his creative genius.

Sarrias portrays and plays with Villa Planchart, conceptualising it as the embodiment of Ponti's philosophy of dwelling, understood as the synthesis of the arts. Bea Sarrias' inspiration from the architecture and design of this villa is her way of paying tribute to Gio Ponti, capturing the essence and creative vision of the Milanese architect in her own artistic work.

The connection between geometry, colour, and modern architecture becomes a visual dialogue in the exhibition, inviting viewers to explore and appreciate the interconnection between these artistic disciplines. In addition to various-sized and composed canvases, this exhibition includes a screen-shaped painting. The film-maker Morrosko Vila-San-Juan created an audiovisual piece, engaging a dialogue between Bea Sarrias' pictorial work and the forms and colours of Gio Ponti - an abstract and allegorical composition that serves as a window into the sensory and sensory universe of the master of masters.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in 1978 in Barcelona, works and lives in Barcelona

Sarrias graduated in Fine Arts and has a D.E.A (Advanced Studies Diploma) from the University of Barcelona. The artist developed much of her work in Barcelona and soon became interested in architecture and the portrayal of iconic spaces.

Her entire body of work is developed through painting, using a realistic technique that takes its main references from American realism of the 20th century. She is particularly interested in the modernity of conceptual terms and pays close attention to the careful handling of perspective, light, colour, and a clean brushwork regarding formal terms. This is clearly evident in her artwork, which is inspired by the works of Spanish architects such as José Antonio Coderch, Antonio Bonet Castellana, and international architects such as Mies van der Rohe, Le Corbusier, Pierre Koenig, and Richard Neutra.

All of her projects are a continuation of her previous work, with the common underlying theme being the use of architecture as a tool to express light. Despite the complete lack of human figures in her portrayals of specific architectonic spaces, Sarrias is able to evoke the sense of inhabitation through her representations of interior spaces. This allows the viewer a glimpse of the intention of the living subjects that have created a memory of the place, through the objects that compose the scenes.

In 2019, Sarrias completed a project called "INSIDE" for the new NATO headquarters in Brussels, in which she painted a "portrait" of the building to capture the soul of the people working there. In 2023, she was invited, by the Spanish government to celebrate the Spanish Presidency in the European Union, to do an action painting at Eurojust headquarters (The Hague - The Netherlands) and she recently completed a 2 month residency at SAFCA in Brussels to work on modern European architecture.

Bea Sarrias participates in various solo and collective exhibitions and some artistic actions in Barcelona, Madrid, New York, Brussels, Amsterdam, Malmö and Oslo. In her hometown and in Madrid, her artwork has been well received by critics and local media who emphasise her conscious and fine use of light and shadows.

Her work is in different collections such as Fundació Mies van der Rohe, Open Earth Foundation, Eileen Kaminsky Foundation, NATO headquarters and SAFFCA Foundation.

Bea Sarrias is represented in Barcelona, Oslo, Malmö, Amsterdam and now in Brussels.

USEFUL INFORMATION	Geometry & Colour : Gio Ponti - Bea Sarrias
EXHIBITION DATES	10.03 au 27.04.2024
VERNISSAGE	10.03.2024 from 2-7 pm
ADDRESS	Rivoli Building ● Chaussée de Waterloo 690 / 25&26 ● 1180 Brussels ● (>Inno Bascule)
OPENING DAYS/TIME	Open Thursday to Saturday from 12 noon to 6 pm &/or by appointment
CONTACT	info@msgallery.be ● Mob/+32 478 716 296 ● www.micheleschoonjansgallery.be