

# LISSON GALLERY

Press Release

## Laure Prouvost *Stranded By Your Side*

September 7 – October 14, 2023  
508 West 24th Street, New York

*from the depths of my heart  
to the depths of the sea  
from high in the clouds, to my brain set free.  
in the womb of this galaxy  
I will draw you to the deep  
where you never dreamed to sleep*

- Excerpt from *Four For See Beauties*, Laure Prouvost, 2022

Laure Prouvost's second solo exhibition with Lisson Gallery in New York is a multifaceted exploration of motherhood, migration and above all, empathy. Immediately conspicuous upon entering the gallery is the presence of Prouvost's protagonist: a new, monumental octopus sculpture, cast in bronze and washed ashore to join visitors in the center of the space. The exhibition, titled *Stranded By Your Side*, also features oil on canvas paintings from the artist's new 'Octopus Body' series as well as an immersive film, *Four For See Beauties* (2022).

Prouvost – who represented France at the 2019 Venice Biennale, and was awarded the Max Mara Art Prize for Women in 2011 and the Turner Prize in 2013 – has gained international acclaim for creating environments where the senses converge, adopting a corporal approach and often addressing the viewer directly. Within these environments Prouvost plays with translation across languages and materials, working with a particular allegorical vocabulary to address complex contemporary issues with intimacy and humor. Often found in her lexicon is the octopus, recurring in installations, paintings and films as a representation of the foggy border between feeling and thinking. With the overwhelming majority of an octopus' organs and receptors formed in the tentacles, the creature thinks by feeling and feels by thinking. Just as the sentient octopus extends her tentacles in various directions, Prouvost's narratives branch out, intertwining the personal and collective.

The octopus is also a symbol for the bearer of life and the interweave of motherhood and ecological vitality. After a mother octopus lays her cluster of eggs, she refrains from any further nutritional intake and wastes away, dying by the time her eggs hatch. Prouvost's octopus, *Landed Here To Sea You With All Our Very Breasts* (2023), has traveled across the Atlantic, purposely leaving the safety of her aquatic home to strand herself closer to us. She will take care of us while she still can. The paintings *I Will Dis Arm You, You Are Mine* and *There Furth Her* (all 2023) further the analogy, positioning the marine life amongst soft human breasts. *Softly Yours, We Were In A Spiral D'Ame Our, Grow In You,* and *On Our Way* (all 2023) feature tentacles interacting directly with the human baby.

The caring cephalopod and other aquatic creatures are also found in the film *Four For See Beauties*. The enveloping film installation was originally co-commissioned by the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, Finland for the 2022 edition of the annual ARS exhibition and La Casa Encendida, Madrid, Spain, before traveling to the 2022 Busan Biennale. The 15-minute video is installed in a womb-like space in the back of the gallery, and stars three women nurturing each other and a baby, the artist's youngest daughter, along with starfish and other marine animals. Following the birth of her own child, Prouvost filmed the work in a sauna, creating an environment that emphasizes warmth, touch and love to return viewers to the sensations of early life.

Laure Prouvost's largest exhibition to date in North America, 'Oma-je', is currently on view at Remail Modern, Saskatoon, SK, Canada through January 28, 2024. 'Above Front Tears Nest in South', the artist's first solo exhibition in Texas, opens at the Moody Center for the Arts from September 15 – December 14.

## About the artist

Language – in its broadest sense – permeates the video, sound, installation and performance work of Laure Prouvost. Known for her immersive and mixed-media installations that combine film and installation in humorous and idiosyncratic ways, Prouvost's work addresses miscommunication and ideas becoming lost in translation. Playing with language as a tool for the imagination, Prouvost is interested in confounding linear narratives and expected associations among words, images and meaning. She combines existing and imagined personal memories with artistic and literary references to create complex film installations that muddy the distinction between fiction and reality. At once seductive and jarring, her approach to filmmaking employs layered storytelling, quick edits, montage and wordplay and is composed of a rich, tactile assortment of images, sounds, spoken and written phrases. The videos are often shown within immersive environments which comprise found objects, sculptures, painting and drawings, signs, furniture and architectural assemblages, that are rendered complicit within the overarching narrative of the installation.

Laure Prouvost was born in Lille, France (1978) and is currently based in Brussels. She received her BFA from Central St Martins, London in 2002 and studied towards her MFA at Goldsmiths College, London. She also took part in the LUX Associate Programme. Prouvost won the MaxMara Art Prize for Women in 2011 and was the recipient of the Turner Prize in 2013.

Recent solo exhibitions include: 'Oma-je', Remail Modern, Saskatoon, SK, Canada, 'Ohmmm age Oma je ohomma mama', Kunsthalle Wien, Wien, Austria (2023); 'Above Front Tears Oui Float' at the Nasjonalmuseet, Oslo, Norway (2022); 'Laure Prouvost: Theatergarten and A Be(a)stuary of the Anthropocene', Longlati Foundation, Shanghai, China (2022); 'Deep Travel Ink', Atelier Hermès, Seoul, South Korea (2022); 'The Long Waited, Weighted, Gathering', Manchester Jewish Museum, Manchester, UK; 'Our elastic arm hold in tight through the clouds' at Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark (2021); 'Re-dit-en-un-in-learning CENTER' at Lisson Gallery London (2020); 'Melting into one another ho hot chaud it heating dip', Kunsthalle Lissabon, Lisbon, Portugal (2020); 'Deep See Blue Surrounding You / Vois Ce Bleu Profond Te Fondre', Les Abattoirs, Toulouse, France, LAM - Lille métropole, Villeneuve d'Ascq, France (2020), and Bonnefanten Museum, Maastricht, Netherlands (2021); 'AM-BIG-YOU-US LEGSICON', M HKA - Museum of Contemporary Art Antwerp, Belgium (2019); Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France (2018); BASS Museum, Miami, FL, USA (2018); 'They Are Waiting for You', Performance for stage at the McGuire Theatre, Minneapolis, MN, USA (2018); SALT Galata, Istanbul, Turkey (2017); Kunstmuseum Luzern, Switzerland (2016); Pirelli HangarBicocca, Milan, Italy (2016); Museum Für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt Am Main, Frankfurt, Germany (2016); Red Brick Art Museum, Beijing, China (2016); Haus Der Kunst, Munich, Germany (2015); New Museum, New York, NY, USA (2014); Laboratorio Arte Alameda, Mexico City, Mexico (2014); Max Mara Art Prize for Women, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK and Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia, Italy (2013); 'Laure Prouvost / Adam Chodzko' as part of 'Schwitters in Britain', Tate Britain, London, UK (2013); The Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield, UK (2012); and Flat Time House, London, UK.

Prouvost represented France at the 58th International Art Biennial Venice, May-November 2019 and was included in 'NIRIN,' the 22nd Biennale of Sydney (2020). June 2019 saw the artist's first public commission in the UK through Transport for London's Art on the Underground.

## About Lisson Gallery

Lisson Gallery is one of the most influential and longest-running international contemporary art galleries in the world. Today the gallery supports and promotes the work of more than 60 international artists across spaces in London, New York, Los Angeles, Shanghai and Beijing. Established in 1967 by Nicholas Logsdail, Lisson Gallery pioneered the early careers of important Minimal and Conceptual artists, such as Art & Language, Carl Andre, Daniel Buren, Donald Judd, John Latham, Sol LeWitt, Richard Long and Robert Ryman among many others. It still works with many of these artists as well as others of that generation from Carmen Herrera to the renowned estate of Leon Polk Smith. In its second decade the gallery introduced significant British sculptors to the public for the first time, including Tony Cragg, Richard Deacon, Anish Kapoor, Shirazeh Houshiary and Julian Opie. Since 2000, the gallery has gone on to represent many more leading international artists such as Marina Abramović, Ai Weiwei,

John Akomfrah, Susan Hiller, Tatsuo Miyajima and Sean Scully. It is also responsible for raising the international profile of a younger generation of artists led by Cory Arcangel, Ryan Gander, Van Hanos, Hugh Hayden, Haroon Mirza, Laure Prouvost, Pedro Reyes, Wael Shawky and Cheyney Thompson.

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