

里森画廊

LISSON GALLERY

Press Release

Laure Prouvost
Pulled Towards You

27 April – 13 July 2024

2/F, 27 Huqiu Road, Huangpu District, Shanghai

Media Preview: 26 April, 2 – 3pm

Opening: 27 April, 3 – 6pm

This Spring, Laure Prouvost presents her inaugural exhibition with Lisson Gallery in Shanghai, titled 'Pulled Towards You'. Showcasing a dynamic array of new works, Prouvost invites viewers into her world through paintings, a new tapestry from her celebrated series *We Will Keep You Cool*, and sculptures in Murano glass. The exhibition also offers a multi-sensory experience with a film installation and a hidden VR adventure nestled within a hanging basket. Prouvost's signature visual language resonates throughout, exploring themes of language, motherhood and ecological consciousness with her characteristic blend of intimacy and humour. This exhibition is an extension of Prouvost's major solo show 'Above Front Tears Oui Float', presented in The Light Hall at Norway's Nasjonalmuseet in October 2022, which subsequently travelled to the Moody Center for the Arts in 2023, and is currently on view at the De Pont Museum in the Netherlands until 18 August 2024.

Prouvost's practice is one of continuous translation and fluid evolution. Central to her work are the themes of shifting meanings, mistranslations across languages, definitions, and the seamless fusion of creatures into a unified whole, where utopia meets surrealism. The exhibition features a glass bird, *Jens* (2023). This is from a series of hand-blown Murano glass creatures that Prouvost debuted in her exhibition at the Nasjonalmuseet in Oslo, 2022. Human, avian, and aquatic forms gracefully intertwine, symbolising the interconnectedness and mutual reliance of species in the age of climate change and global migration. Birds, captured in various poses, appear on the brink of transformation as if embarking on a migratory journey alongside its aquatic counterparts.

The new tapestry *We Will Keep Cool (Las Pozas)* (2024) depicts diverse landscapes and familiar motifs in Prouvost's oeuvre. Set in British poet Edward James' surrealistic garden 'Las Pozas' in Mexico, it depicts her own work *Cooling system 3 (for global warming)*, 2018 which offers up a future proposition as a solution to global warming, as well as characters from her film *They Parlaient Idéale*. Translation becomes a central theme not only through language but also through converting motifs into different mediums and referencing previous artworks.

Further into the space, a series of paintings *The Octopus Body* make their debut in China following an initial presentation in 'Stranded by Your Side' (Lisson Gallery, New York, 7 September – 14 October 2023). Each canvas, blending playful allure and sensual intrigue, is adorned with Prouvost's characteristic imagery and text that directly addresses the viewer. Going beyond her customary palette, these works embrace softer tones — pastel blues, greys, and flesh hues — conjuring the shades of a twilight seascape and the ethereal life beneath its surface. A motif that frequently inhabits Prouvost's creative realm, depictions of swirling octopi and swimming fish symbolise the enigmatic threshold between thinking and feeling, human life and sea creatures.

Amidst the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, Prouvost delved into the intricacies of our collective adaptation to a world in flux, probing the origins of language, the sensorial imparting of knowledge and charting our trajectory forward through her film *Re-dit-en-un-in-a-learning* (2020). The work serves as a poignant reflection on the human experience on learning and belonging, care and connection and is a sequel to Prouvost's 2017 work, *DIT LEARN*. She associates words to different images, destabilizing our understanding of language and its structure of knowledge, and exploring a pre-lingual world. The title itself, a play on words combining "dit" (a verb meaning "to speak" or "speaking") and "learn," encapsulates the essence of linguistic evolution and the perpetual process of relearning. Prouvost explains, "You cannot find the words for the images you see... All becomes one."

Prouvost's first major exhibition in Australia, 'Oui Move In You', runs from 23 March to 10 June at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, encompassing new installations and a survey of existing work to transform ACCA's architecture into a labyrinthine and other-worldly environment. Concurrently to the show in Shanghai, Prouvost will present a solo exhibition at Fosun Foundation in Chengdu, showcasing two films including *Re-dit-en-un-in-a-learning* (2020).

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: 'Oui Move in You', ACCA Melbourne, Australia (2024); 'In the Mist of it All, Above Front Tears', De Pont Museum, Tilburg, Netherlands (2024); 'Above Front Tears Nest in South', Moody Center for the Arts, Houston, USA (2023); 'Oma-je', Remai Modern, Saskatoon, Canada (2023); '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 clauds' at Kunsthal 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.

For press enquiries, please contact

Victoria Mitchell, Head of Communications
+44 (0)207 724 2739
victoria@lissongallery.com

i: @lisson_gallery
t: @Lisson_Gallery
fb: LissonGallery