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**Anamnesis: the reasoned doubt**

(Hong Kong, 11 February 2016) Puerta Roja celebrates Hong Kong Art Week and the 1-year anniversary of SoHo 189 Art Lane, with the opening of Anamnesis: the reasoned doubt with works by María García Ibañez and Javier León Pérez. Curated by Pilar Cano Romero, the exhibition will present a brand new series of works stemming from a collaboration between the two young Spanish artists that have captured the imagination of collectors across Asia Pacific. The works will also be shown in a curated booth during Art Central. Both artists will be present at the opening and throughout the duration of the art fair.

Anamnesis (from the Greek word ἀνάμνησις) means 'recollection', 'reminiscence', 'remembrance'. Anamnesis is the idea that humans possess knowledge from past incarnations and that learning consists of rediscovering that knowledge within us. The term was coined by Plato in the context of “knowledge as a remembrance” or “dialogue of the soul with itself.”

Puerta Roja’s founder, Adriana Alvarez-Nichol states: “We commissioned the collaboration months ago motivated by the seeming dialogue between the works of two of our youngest but most impactful artists. Beyond the evident connection in the painstaking techniques both artist display in their work, it was their deep concern with the process of drawing as a tool for spiritual and philosophical discovery that stirred us to bring María and Javier to work together.”

Pilar Cano Romero, curator of the exhibition notes on the artists’ collaboration: “We are privileged spectators of one of those rare phenomena where two parallel universes converge momentarily. Through drawing, María and Javier dissect, comprehend and then recompose reality into a complex tissue created with fragments of their own mental processes. Departing from the most basic geometric shapes, the artists create an infinite, cosmic web, where the smallest unit of expression is repeated.

Departing from the artists’ individual and more intimate works, in this collaborative project, drawing is saved for sketches and preliminary studies, making way to a construction of human scale proportions. This expansion in scale makes the work literally habitable. We can observe a nod to the Bauhaus movement as the starting point for modern design, where the materials, together with careful execution techniques, are treated as an artisanal practice which gives unique character to the works.

We talk about the artists’ process not as a purposeful creative act or purely as an anticipator of the resulting work, but as an act of Anamnesis, the discovery of a memory that had always been there.”

In addition to brand new individual works by each artist, the exhibition will introduce a unique joint edition series specially made for Puerta Roja. The artists and curator will intervene Puerta Roja’s gallery to create an immersive environment where visitors will be plunged into their own journey of discovery.
Exhibition: Anamnesis: the reasoned doubt

Opening Night: 6:00pm till late: Thursday March 17th, 2016
During the 1-year anniversary party of SoHo 189 Art Lane and concurrent to exhibition openings at Galerie Huit, Leo Gallery and Pearl Lam Galleries

With the presence of the artists and curator

Exhibition Dates: 17 March 2016 – 12 May 2016

Location: Puerta Roja
1/F SoHo 189 Art Lane,
189 Queens Road West, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

Art Fair: Anamnesis curated show during Art Central
Booth C12
Central Harbourfront Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Road
21 March – 26 March 2016
www.artcentralhongkong.com

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about the artists

María García-Ibáñez, b. Madrid, 1978

María García-Ibáñez lives between her native Spain and Mexico, where she currently works. She has participated in a number of cultural projects and has held solo and collective exhibitions in Asia, Europe and Mexico. As a young artist, she was recognised and broadly supported with several production grants including the residence grant for creators from Ibero-America supported by the main Cultural Councils and Foreign Affairs ministries of Spain and Mexico. María was invited to participate in Mystical Path, one of the most striking exhibitions curated by Gonzalo Ortega at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Monterrey (MARCO). In 2015, her work Molecule was one of the 65 selected works - amongst 3,487 inscribed - for the XI FEMSA Bienal, one of the most recognised biennales in the Americas.

Javier León Pérez, b. Seville, 1977

Javier León Pérez lives and works in Seville, Spain. He studied at the School of Arts in Seville and a postgraduate at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. He obtained the highest rating with his research “Return to the Silence”, focused on repetition of elements in painting as analogous to meditative rituals. He is the recipient of numerous awards in Spain and his work on Japanese paper was recognized in the Paper Biennial of Contemporary Art at the Museum Rijswijk in the Netherlands, and the Biennial of Contemporary Art Latin in Spain. Javier has held multiple exhibitions across Europe, with his first solo show in Hong Kong in 2015. He has participated in art fairs in Spain, Portugal, Holland, Germany, the UK, Hong Kong, Korea, Indonesia, and Taiwan. His works have been acquired by important Spanish collections, including La Caixa Foundation and DEARTE, and by prominent collectors in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Indonesia, the Philippines and Korea.

about the curator

Pilar Cano Romero is a young Spanish curator, currently working and living in Hong Kong. She earned a Degree in Fine Arts from the University of Seville, and holds a Master’s degree in Exhibition Space in Creative Museography from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia in Barcelona and a Master’s degree in Graphic Design from C.E.I. Design Centre in Seville. Pilar held a curatorial and exhibition coordinator positions at the Grao Vasco Art Museum in Portugal and for Bio ‘11 for D#SPACIO, a public art project displaying works by ten different artists in ten different spaces. Pilar is co-author of “Byo Bu 360 Degrees” published in the book “Young Museography, the Self-supporting Exhibition”, one of the most comprehensive publications on contemporary museography in Spain. Throughout the years she has independently collaborated with professionals in the cultural realm and upon her move to Hong Kong, founded NTMY Art Project where she works with artists and brands in collaborative projects bringing contemporary art and the fashion industry together.

about the gallery: Puerta Roja

Since its foundation in 2010 by Adriana Alvarez-Nichol, Puerta Roja has pioneered the promotion of established and emerging contemporary artists as the only gallery to specialise in Latin American and Spanish art in Asia Pacific region. Located in Hong Kong’s most dynamic art enclave, SoHo 189 Art Lane, Puerta Roja prides itself on having both a strong influence in the development of the local contemporary art scene as well as a growing footprint across Asia-Pacific. Puerta Roja collaborates with a wide network of renowned galleries and art organizations from Latin America, Asia and Europe, and participates in the top international art fairs in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Taiwan, Australia and Korea. The gallery invests in the primary market, arranges for commissions, sources specific mandates and intermediates in the secondary market, primarily between Asian and Latin American private collectors.