



For Immediate Release

**Puerta Roja returns to KIAF for the fourth year, presenting works by an outstanding roster of Latin American and Spanish artists led by Carlos Cruz-Diez, one of the most influential artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

**Cruz-Diez is no stranger to Korea since the installation of his *Physichromie* at the Olympic Park and *Spirale Virtuelle* in the Korean Folk village in Suwon-si. He has held solo exhibitions at the Dream Forest Art Centre at the Sang Sang Tok Tok Gallery in Seoul. Most notably he had a greatly acclaimed show at the Jeonbuk Art Museum in 2012 and participated in *Spatial Illumination - 9 Lights in 9 rooms* at the Daelim Contemporary Art Museum.**

**Puerta Roja will also present a new series of mobile bamboo sculptures by Laurent Martin "Lo" who will be flying from Spain for the occasion. The artist work was extremely well received last year, with all works sold out to prominent Korean collectors by the second day of the fair.**

**The booth will showcase Carlos Aguirre, one of the pioneers of conceptual art in Mexico, and three rising artists Javier León Pérez, María García-Ibáñez and Ventoso.**

**(Hong Kong, 6 September)** Puerta Roja are returning to Korea International Art Fair (KIAF) for the fourth time. KIAF will take place from 21 to 24 September 2017 at Coex Hall A and B Seoul. In line with Puerta Roja's mission of promoting established and emerging contemporary Latin American and Spanish artists in Asia-Pacific, this exhibition will feature a selection of works by Franco-Venezuelan Op-Art master Carlos Cruz-Diez, Mexican conceptual art pioneer Carlos Aguirre, Spain-based emerging artists Laurent Martin 'Lo', Javier León Pérez and María García Ibáñez, and Ventoso from Argentina.

The highlight of this year's participation will be the vibrant works by the internationally renowned Franco-Venezuelan artist [Carlos Cruz-Diez](http://www.carlos-cruz-diez.com). Dedicating his life to the rigours research of colours, lines and perception, Cruz-Diez is one of the most influential artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The artist is recognised as one of the founders of the Op-Art and Kinetic Art movements of the 1950s. New works from *Physichromie*, the artist's most complex and celebrated series, will be presented at the fair. Cruz-Diez began the series in 1959, using three-dimensional strips on a two-dimensional surface. Colours oscillate from one chromatic range to another, creating a kinetic experience in accordance to the viewers' movement around the piece. The mathematically precise vertical bands harness the phenomena of colour reflection and interference to re-create mesmerising effects seen in nature. He also uses



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mechanisms of isolating and exaggerating colour by means of contrast and harmonisation which is used not only in this series but throughout his work. From observation and investigation into the wonders of colour, Cruz-Diez generates virtual colours, present in the eyes of the viewer but not in the physical support.

Cruz-Diez is part of more than 60 major museum collections worldwide including MoMA, Tate Modern and Georges Pompidou. His work has been well appreciated in Asia Pacific since 1988 when *Physichromie Double Face* was installed in the Olympic Park in South Korea. In 2001 the *Spirale Virtuelle* was installed in the Korean Folk village in Suwonsi. He has held multiple museum exhibitions, most notably the touring solo exhibition *Circumstance and Ambiguity of Colour*, across Asia in many national museums and leading galleries. The show was exhibited at Sang Sang Tok Tok Gallery in 2011 and to the great acclaim at The Jeonbuk Province Art Museum in 2012. Most recently, he also participated in *Spatial Illumination - 9 Lights in 9 rooms* at the Daelim Contemporary Art Museum. The artist has also executed numerous high profile public commissions and exhibitions in Australia, China, Japan, and Taiwan.

As one of the pioneers of conceptual art in Mexico, Carlos Aguirre has been exhibiting thought-provoking and socially conscious work for over 35 years. Over this time, the artist has produced a wide-ranging and dynamic range of works, resulting from a practice that incorporates three core elements: social, linguistic and material. Unlike many conceptual artists, the "idea" does not take precedence over the aesthetics and process of creation, on the contrary, they are vital to conveying the artist's intent. From his background in design, Aguirre employs typography, graphic communication and material experimentation to eloquently address complex social issues. Experimentation lies at the heart of Aguirre's creative process—the artist is constantly learning by means of trial and error with new materials and techniques. Whether the work untangles social structures, makes political statements or is simply a result of artistic investigation, Aguirre teases our minds to develop our own interpretations and reveals our own contradictions.

Aguirre has represented Mexico in different Biennales such as Paris, Sao Paulo and Havana. He obtained the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship in 1996 and has worked extensively in solo projects for some of the most prestigious contemporary art museums in Mexico, including MAM (Museum of Modern Art), MUAC (Contemporary Art National University Museum) and Museo del Chopo.

Juxtaposing works by the two pioneers will be the mobile bamboo sculptures by Spain-based French artist [Laurent Martin 'Lo'](#). Lo's bamboo sculptures immerse the viewer in the physical and sensorial virtues of the organic material. Closely bound to the forces of nature, Lo's bamboo sculptures follow strict mathematical laws of balance and movement. His creations are gravity-defying, swinging in the air and drawing curves of harmony like the gracious strokes of Chinese calligraphy.



Lo developed deep insight and knowledge into bamboo's properties and craftsmanship through his travels to Southeast Asia including Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Taiwan. His exquisite bamboo creations are well appreciated internationally as well as the Asia Pacific Region. Lo was recently invited by the National Taiwan Craft Research and Development Institute to participate in the *Bamboo Traces Contemporary International Bamboo Art and Craft Exhibition*. This exhibition is a worldwide collaboration project, gathering artists and designers from many different countries and cultures, exploring bamboo, a traditional material in Asia, from a modern context. His works have also been acquired by prominent collectors including Hong Kong renowned architect and collector Mr. William Lim.

As well as being well received across Asia, Lo's bamboo sculptures were particularly prominent last year at KIAF. All of the works exhibited were acquired by prominent Korean collectors by the second day of the fair. For this year's edition, Puerta Roja is bringing an even wider and further developed collection of Lo's works as a result of his extreme popularity. The artist will also be present during the occasion.

In tune with Lo's mobile bamboo sculptures will be the meticulous sculptural paper works by Spanish artist [Javier León Pérez](#). In his stunning three-dimensional works, small elements of carefully cut Japanese paper overlay and interweave gracefully with each other. By repeating detailed processes, endlessly, fractal patterns emerged. Here the eyes are hypnotised by the flowing movement that entwines the macro and micro perspective together. These works have boundless interpretation, invoking associations to landscapes, tree roots or veins. In fact, this is because León Pérez' extremely personal creative process follows the same structure as the underlying order of nature, as reflected in its organic forms. This concept has many parallels with the philosophical idea of Li (理), a concept found in Neo-Confucian Chinese Philosophy.

León Pérez is the recipient of numerous awards in Spain and his work on Japanese paper was recognised in the Paper Biennial of Contemporary Art at the Museum Rijswijk in the Netherlands, and the Biennale of Contemporary Art Lalin in Spain. León Pérez' works have been acquired by important Spanish collections, including La Caixa Foundation and DEARTE, and by prominent collectors in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Indonesia, Philippines and Korea.

Another rising Spanish artist, [María García Ibañez](#), displays a simplicity of lines, purity and elegance that almost betrays the deep discourse and moral dilemmas that are embodied. García Ibañez explores the hidden beauty beneath the elements, dissecting them and then reconstructing their essence and layers with a deeply feminine aesthetic. María's works reflect a marriage, a reconciliation between science and aesthetics, contemporary digital techniques and traditional craftsmanship, the views of the old and the 'new' worlds, the anatomical construction of the human body and its soul, strength and vulnerability.

García Ibañez 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.

Argentinean artists Ventoso are the new generation of optical art. Rooted in the spirit of geometric abstraction masters of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the works by Ventoso intend to solve visual strategies that deal not only with spatial or assembly concerns, but also with the experience for the viewer that every piece carries within. Ventoso is a family artistic collective formed in 2006. Abel, an architect, along with Héctor and Jorge, engineers by profession, have searched together for a unique mean of artistic expression. The collective's work, based on abstraction, seeks to emphasize the formal aspects of art through an autonomous language manifested in the proposal of visual and tactile experiences. The rigorously programmed geometrical compositions, which are the fundamental constant in the collective's plastic language, generate refined and personal aesthetics of volumetric games.

Since 2007, Ventoso started to build an international following, particularly in Latin-America and the USA. In 2016, their work joined the permanent collection of Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in Los Angeles. In addition, the collective would show in Paris at Gallery René Denis, solidifying its place as a worthy progeny of the great Op Art masters from Argentina, and for the first time in Asia with Puerta Roja in Hong Kong.

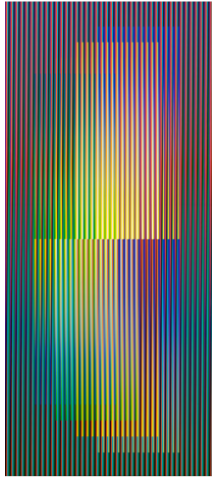
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| Exhibition        | <b>The 16<sup>th</sup> Korea International Art Fair (KIAF). Hall A Booth A25</b>  |
| Location          | <b>Coex 1F, Hall A and B, Seoul</b>   |
| Exhibition Dates  | <b>VIP Preview:</b><br>Wednesday 20 September, 5pm – 8pm<br><br><b>Public Viewing:</b><br>Thursday 21 September – Saturday 23 September, 11am – 7:30pm<br>Sunday 24 September, 11am – 5pm |
| Media<br>Contacts | For more information, please contact <a href="mailto:info@puerta-roja.com">info@puerta-roja.com</a><br>(+852) 2803 0332   |

Selected Works -



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**Carlos Cruz-Diez**  
*Couleur Additive Denise A*  
Chromography on aluminium  
180 x 80 cm  
Ed. 8  
Paris 2007



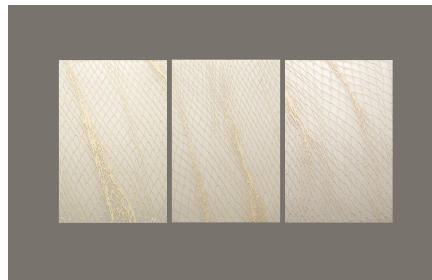
**Laurent Martin "Lo"**  
*Base Key*  
Weathered bamboo, steel rings and  
hooks, titan braid thread  
215 x 120 120 cm  
2016



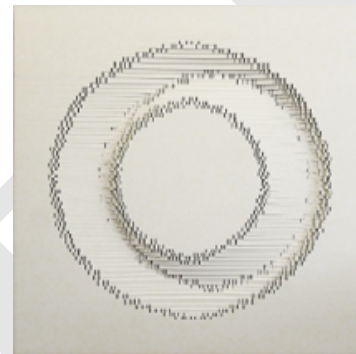
**Javier León Pérez**  
*Ayuno #2*  
Estratum Series  
Japanese Paper, Acrylic Box  
120 x 100 x 8 cm  
2015



**Carlos Aguirre**  
*Tree #23*  
Laser Cust Semi-Opaque  
Acrylic, Collage, Photo on  
Cotton Paper  
64 x 86 cm  
2014



**María Garía Ibañez**  
*Redes (Nets) No. 3, Redes Series*  
Laser-cut Guarro Super Alfa 256gm  
Paper  
116 x 80 cm each  
2016



**Ventoso**  
*DTi*  
Assemblage High Density Polymer  
115 x 115 cm  
2015





## About Carlos Cruz-Diez

b. 1923, Caracas Venezuela

Franco-Venezuelan artist Carlos Cruz-Diez (b. 1923, Caracas, Venezuela) has dedicated his life to the research of colour, lines and perception and is hailed as one of the precursors of the Optical and Kinetic art movement from the 1950s. Since Cruz-Diez's first solo exhibition in Caracas in 1947, his participation in MoMA's polemical 1965 show of then-new Op Art movement and his 1970 representation of Venezuela at the Venice Biennale, Cruz-Diez has had hundreds of exhibitions and retrospectives around the world.

Cruz-Diez' work is part of more than 60 museums worldwide including, amongst others, MoMA (USA); Tate Modern and the Victoria and Albert Museum (UK); Centre Georges Pompidou and the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (France); Kunstmuseum (Switzerland); Wallraf-Richartz Museum (Germany); The Museum of Contemporary Art (Sydney) and the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts (Taiwan). Recent touring shows include *Circumstance and Ambiguity of Colour* which was presented in major museums across China between 2013 and 2014, as well as the ground-breaking exhibition *An Imagined Museum: works from the Centre Pompidou*, Tate and Museum für Moderne Kunst, which can be seen at Centre Pompidou-Metz through 27 March 2017. In Hong Kong, his work can be appreciated as one of the most important pieces within the UBS Art Collection.

The artist has also executed numerous large-scale public projects and architectural interventions around the world, including those in *Transchromie Washington* in Covington & Burling LLP Hall Building in Washington, D.C; *Cromovela* in the Republic of Panama; *Chromatic Induction* in a Double Frequency at Marlins Ball Park, Miami, USA; *Fisicromía para Madrid* in Parque Juan Carlos I, Madrid, Spain; *Physichromie Double Face* in Olympic Park, Seoul, South Korea; *Plafond Physichromie* in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France; *Ambientación Cromática* at Raúl Leoni Hydroelectric Plant, Guri, Venezuela; and *Environnement chromatique* at UBS headquarters, Zürich, Switzerland.

Over the course of his career, Carlos Cruz-Diez has received many prestigious awards including the International Prize for Painting at the IX Sao Paulo Biennial. He was bestowed as Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters and Officer of the National Order of the Legion of Honour in France. He also received an honorary Doctorate by the Universidad Central of Venezuela. In 2014 he was guest of honour at the Royal Academy of Arts and the following year he was awarded the Turner Medal in London. In 2016 he received the International Trebbia Award in Prague, and he is the SCAD deFINE ART 2017 Honouree.

## About Carlos Aguirre

b. 1948, Acapulco, Mexico

As one of the pioneers of conceptual art in Mexico, Carlos Aguirre has been exhibiting thought-provoking and socially conscious work for over 35 years. Over this time, the artist has produced a wide-ranging and dynamic range of works, resulting from a practice that incorporates three core elements: social, linguistic and material. Unlike many conceptual artists, the "idea" does not take precedence over the aesthetics and process of creation, on the contrary, they are vital to conveying the artist's intent. From his background in design, Aguirre employs typography, graphic communication and material experimentation to eloquently address complex social issues. Experimentation lies at the heart of Aguirre's creative process—the artist is constantly learning by means of trial and error with new materials and techniques. He begins with continuous rituals of collecting information, such as photographing intriguing details in urban environments and collecting and archiving phrases from newspapers. He then playfully arranges, re-arranges, assembles, manipulates and adjusts the images, words and unusual materials and objects.

Consisting largely in digital format -the artist refused to paint since his early years- Aguirre's work is highly flexible and materialised in multiple forms, from small scale printed format to ephemeral site-specific large-scale installations. In his linguistic work, he wittily addresses the ambiguous space around everyday



language from which meaning is formulated. Whether the work untangles social structures, makes political statements or is simply a result of artistic investigation, Aguirre teases our minds to develop our own interpretations and reveals our own contradictions.

Aguirre has represented Mexico in different Biennales, such as Paris, Sao Paulo and Havana. He obtained the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship in 1996 and is currently a member of the National System of Creators of the Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes (FONCA, Mexico). He has worked extensively in solo projects for some of the most prestigious contemporary art museums in Mexico, including the Museum of Modern Art (MAM), Contemporary Art National University Museum (MUAC), Carrillo Gil Contemporary Art Museum, Siqueiros Public Exhibition Hall, Museo del Chopo, as well as the National School of Fine Arts.

Returning 30 years after his first solo show at the Museo de Art Moderno (MAM), Aguirre exhibited a large Retrospective "Zona de Riesgo" encapsulating four decades of his most socially and politically driven works in Mexico City.

## About Laurent Martin "Lo"

b. 1955, Paris France

Born in France, Lo trained as a visual artist and for many years worked as a creative director in advertising and fashion. Lo's first encounter with bamboo was completely circumstantial, but as he recalls "it was love at first sight". Bamboo became his obsession, a passion so strong that drove him to set out on a journey of discovery which he refers to as his Bamboo Routes.

In 2004 he set out for Southeast Asia, attending the World Bamboo Congress in Delhi. From there he travelled to remote areas in Thailand, Vietnam and Laos, learning old techniques from the communities for whom bamboo is an essential resource. Beyond craftsmanship, Lo learned the strong spiritual and emotional charge within bamboo. In 2011, with the support of the World Bamboo Organisation, he began his second journey to Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. He studied the spatial properties of bamboo and met well-known members of an international community using contemporary techniques to build bamboo structures, including Architect Martín Coto and Engineer Mercedes Rodríguez. His final trip was to Indonesia in 2012, where he discovered the work of John Hardy in Bali. Hardy would invite Lo to give lessons in "bamboo art" at his Green School and Green Village and to develop a project during bamboo's growing season.

Through his travels, Lo developed deep insight and knowledge into bamboo's properties as well as traditional and contemporary techniques to grow and work with the material. Beyond its physical characteristics such as flexibility, resistance, density and lightness; it was the spiritual properties of bamboo that would captivate him and become the soul of his poetic creations.

Lo's exquisite bamboo creations are well appreciated internationally as well as in the Asia Pacific region. Lo was recently invited by the National Taiwan Craft Research and Development Institute to participate in the Bamboo Traces Contemporary International Bamboo Art and Craft Exhibition. This exhibition is a worldwide collaboration project, gathering artists and designers from many different countries and cultures, exploring bamboo, a traditional material in Asia, from a modern context. His works have been acquired by prominent collectors including Hong Kong renowned architect and collector Mr. William Lim.

Laurent Martin "Lo" is member of the Royal British Society of Sculptors and currently lives and works in Spain. He is represented by Puerta Roja in Asia since 2015.



## About Javier León Pérez

b. 1977, Seville Spain

Javier León Pérez's meticulous works, the almost obsessive detailed process, and eternal repetition of small elements that cover the surface, act as a mantra, a sacred formula and deeply personal ritual for the artist. The eyes explore the surface and discover differences in density, quantity, as well as the games of light and shadow.

Javier 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 Biennale of Contemporary Art Lalin 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. Puerta Roja represents Javier León Pérez in Asia since 2014.

## About María García Ibáñez

b. 1978, Madrid Spain

Fascinated with anatomical constructions and organic forms, María García Ibáñez buried herself in the understanding of underlying structures, cells, veins, roots, anatomical and geographical maps, the different scales of the territory, issues that ultimately imply a revision of the origin, from a spatial and psychological point of view. Questioning them, dissecting them and then reconstructing their essence and layers with a deeply feminine aesthetic style. In her past projects, María tackles themes related to identity as related to mobility, belonging, the different scales of the territory, issues that ultimately imply a revision of the origin, from a spatial and psychological point of view.

Drawing, is an essential part of María's process and the base that supports her body of works. It allows her to open up a propositional discourse, which surfaces in a more or less intuitive form, that explores elements such as the ordering of the earth layers, the orography, the historical distribution of human settlements, and the histologic sections of tissues and organs, anatomy or landscape.

María 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. Puerta Roja represents María García-Ibáñez in Asia since 2012.





## About Ventoso

Buenos Aires Argentina

Ventoso is a family artistic collective formed in 2006. Abel, an architect, along with Héctor and Jorge, engineers by profession, have searched together for a unique mean of artistic expression. The collective's work, based on the spirit of geometric abstraction masters of the 20th century, intends to solve visual strategies that deal not only with spatial or assembly concerns, but also with the experience for the viewer that every piece carries within. Their discourse was borne independently from the traditional artistic infrastructure. Fresh, autonomous and experimental, Ventoso's works, including the medium, are reflective of their contemporary environment. The use of high density polymers, an alternative to "noble" art materials such as wood, is a statement in itself. The thermo plastic materials are versatile, highly durable, resistant to humidity and degradation in addition to being lightweight. This contemporary "pragmatism" has also a further relevance, as through the use of polymers, the artists reinforce the concept of abstraction as a purely human invention.

Since 2007, Ventoso started to build an international following, particularly in Latin-America and the USA. In 2016, their work joined the permanent collection of Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in Los Angeles. In addition, the collective would show in Paris at Gallery René Denis, solidifying its place as a worthy progeny of the great Op Art masters from Argentina, and for the first time in Asia with Puerta Roja in Hong Kong. Ventoso is represented by Puerta Roja since 2016.

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## About Puerta Roja

Founded in 2010 by Adriana Alvarez-Nichol, Puerta Roja pioneers the promotion of established and emerging contemporary Latin American and Spanish artists in Asia-Pacific.

Puerta Roja focuses on exhibitions that expand the understanding of Latin American artists' contribution to the development of global art movements, selecting artists whose discourse remains relevant to Asia Pacific. Its programming has introduced master's works from Mexican modernism to South American geometric abstraction such as Siqueiros, Carrington, Asís, Tomasello and Cruz-Díez. The gallery supports the internationalisation of emerging artists and has presented ground-breaking new media installations by Miguel Chevalier as well as works by conceptual artists such as Carlos Aguirre, Carlos Amoraes and TRES Collective. Exhibitions are regularly accompanied by a talk and community engagement programme.

Puerta Roja is firmly rooted in HK and prides itself in developing bridges that further the regional ecosystem and the local art scene. Its regional focus helps develop deep relationships with established collectors across Asia Pacific and nurture the next generation of collectors. Puerta Roja has significantly furthered its collector base by bringing top international standards to regional art fairs in Indonesia, Taiwan, Korea and Australia. It also collaborates with international collectors, galleries, and dealers representing Latin American artists and contributes to their efforts in Asia Pacific, for instance, when they participate in Art Basel HK. Puerta Roja also intermediates in the secondary market, primarily between Asian and Latin American collections.

Alvarez-Nichol is a founder and current Vice-president of the Hong Kong Art Gallery Association and represents HK at the Asia Pacific Art Gallery Alliance. Puerta Roja proudly supports Para Site Annual Auction, Neptune, the WMA Awards, the Sovereign Art Foundation and regularly contributes to other social and environmental charities.