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DUBAI, UAE — Leila Heller Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of *Title* featuring works by artist Nancy Lorenz. Based in New York, Lorenz's career has witnessed the inclusion of her works in several exhibitions around the world, including private and public commissions from Miami to Mumbai. The successful reception of her works is justified, juxtaposing motifs from East Asia, specifically Japan, with commonplace materials to produce transformative pieces gilded in gold, silver, and mother-of-pearl.

Lorenz's oeuvre displays an uncanny understanding of ancient practices fueled with modern techniques, adding further to the contemporary dialogue in the art world of referencing the past to comment on the present. In fact, as one walks throughout the space, it is almost impossible to distinguish her practice from that of civilizations past, finishing cardboard and wood to resemble centuries of age. This meticulous process, of imbuing ordinary materials with history itself, can be observed across all of the works displayed here.

The most notable aspects of Lorenz's oeuvre come from her wooden and cardboard panels, and her boxes, styled as if Nancy poured molten metal along each piece; and, yet, there is a sense of method to be seen — an awareness that each is lustrous drip is placed with purpose. Where Lorenz succeeds most is in her masterful control of space and arrangement, which stands as a testament to her appreciation for practices of art from East Asia. It is not just about remolding beauty from the average, but ingraining a whole culture in each piece. In this sense, her works transcend their decorative function.

The works of Nancy Lorenz are best defined by her *Moon Gold* catalog by the San Diego Museum of Art. In Justin Spring's writings, he explains:

"Lorenz comes to her engagement with lustrous materials out of an appreciation of their sensuality; but also with a healthy respect for their traditional and historical use in the fine and decorative arts. Simply put: they are materials for which she has always felt both reverence and attraction. But, not content to work within tradition-bound forms, she instead incorporates them into abstract and nature-inspired compositions. Nonetheless these works will often carry implicit (and at times explicit) evocations — at first glance they seem an update on Japanese screen paintings, Coromandel lacquer, Fabergé or Verdura bibelots. But Lorenz's own vision is far more deconstructed. On closer inspection, her works seem posed, indeterminate, between the traditionally elegant and the wholly surprising.<sup>1</sup>"

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<sup>1</sup> Ariel Plotek, *Nancy Lorenz Moon Gold* (San Diego: The San Diego Museum of Art, 2018), 72

**ABOUT THE ARTIST:**

Living and based in New York City, Nancy Lorenz considers herself an abstract painter working to incorporate techniques born from traditional Asian craft. She uses materials such as mother-of-pearl inlay, lacquer, and gold leaf in painterly gestures to create fine and decorative works of art. Lorenz earned a BFA Summa Cum Laude in Painting and Printmaking at the University of Michigan. She also received an MFA in Painting from the Tyler School of Art alongside received a John Simon Guggenheim Award in 1998.

Lorenz's extensive career history includes various solo exhibitions with PDX Contemporary Art, in Portland, Oregon (2003-2012). Many of her works have been either commissioned or purchased by public institutions such as: The New York Public Library; the Portland Museum of Art; the United States Consulate in Istanbul; the Beverly Hilton

Hotel, Los Angeles; Gucci Tower, Ginza, Japan and Hong Kong; Mandarin Oriental/Time Warner, New York; Soho Grand Hotel, New York; Tiffany & Co. stores in New York, Hong Kong, Ginza, Munich, Nice, Montreal, Macao; and, Chanel stores in Paris, Hong Kong, Ginza, Taipei, Rome, Boston, Dubai, Geneva, and Bangkok, to name a brief selection. Individuals who collect Lorenz's works include the likes of Cindy Crawford, Tom Ford, Thomas L. Friedman, Elton John, Rachel Kohler, the Obama family; Kelly Ripa and Mark Consuelo; Beth Rudin de Woody; Judith Stern Peck; Anna Wintour; and, others.

**ABOUT THE GALLERY:**

Since its establishment over three decades ago in New York, Leila Heller Gallery has gained worldwide recognition as a pioneer in promoting creative dialogue and exchange between Western artists and Middle Eastern, Central and Southeast Asian artists. It has garnered a reputation for identifying and cultivating the careers of artists leaving a lasting impact on contemporary art and culture. Currently representing a diverse roster of Western and Middle Eastern artists, the gallery is also active in the American, European and Middle Eastern secondary art markets. In November 2015, Leila Heller Gallery opened its first international location in Dubai's Alserkal Avenue. At 14,000 square feet, the state of the art gallery features three exhibition spaces, making it the largest gallery in the UAE. Showcasing leading regional and international artists, many of whom will be presenting their work in the Middle East for the first time, the gallery is dedicated to supporting the evolving practice of established artists.

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