

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

'Nature's Pulse'

By

Maria Jose Benvenuto



Nature reserve foliage, 2023, Acrylic on canvas, 100 x 200 cm

Dubai, UAE – Leila Heller Gallery is delighted to announce the upcoming solo exhibition by Maria Jose Benvenuto, titled *'Nature's Pulse'*, opening 18th September 2024.

The exhibition showcases a vibrant series of abstract paintings inspired by the landscape memories of North Head National Park in Manly, Australia, the setting of Benvenuto's creative space.

In *'Nature's Pulse'*, Benvenuto captures the dynamic energy of contrasting colors, creating an atmosphere of contemplation. The series is guided by intuition and emerges directly from the subconscious, drawing on the deep reservoirs of memory. These fundamental elements of color, form, and composition are interwoven to evoke the essence of landscapes.

Originally from Chile, Benvenuto's six years in Australia dynamically infused her paintings with the freedom and global belonging found in living abroad. This series in Dubai, connects with audiences who appreciate cultural fusion and vibrant energy. The expansive vistas of North Head and Dubai's panoramic beauty inspire profound self-connection, translating into dynamic, gestural expressions on her canvas.

Reflecting on the collection, Benvenuto shares, "Through this series, I aim to convey the unique vibrancy and freedom of the landscapes that inspire me, both in Australia and beyond. In Dubai, a city that embodies innovation and creativity, I hope my work will resonate with viewers and inspire a shared appreciation for the universal beauty of our world's diverse landscapes."

Maria Jose Benvenuto's vibrant abstract paintings are interpretations of global landscapes that celebrate natural beauty and evoke deep connections, fostering a shared appreciation for the dynamic interplay of memory and intuition.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

María José Benvenuto received her Bachelor of Fine Art from the Catholic University of Chile in Santiago, where she studied visual art.

Select solo and group presentations include M. Contemporary Gallery, Sydney (2019-2024) Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Sydney (2019-2024) Parc Lima, Lima (2023) Scope Basel, Switzerland (2017) Aqua Art Miami, Miami (2017) among others. A notable project took her to Paris, where she created four ceiling panels for the esteemed restaurant "La Plume Paris" in the Hotel Madame Reve.

Her work has been featured in various publications and can be found in private collections.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Since its establishment over four decades ago in New York, Leila Heller Gallery has gained worldwide recognition as a pioneer in promoting a 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, Central Asian, Southeast Asian 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 16,000 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. In addition to presenting a dynamic exhibition schedule, Leila Heller Gallery actively organizes shows with world renowned curators, hosts educational panels and film screenings, and produces catalogs and books with scholarly essays. Each year the gallery participates in major international art fairs and stages off-site projects as a platform for exploring new conversations within a wider context of galleries, artists and institutions. Gallery artists have consistently participated in international museum exhibitions and biennials, and are included in leading institutional collections worldwide.