

LOUISA GUINNESS GALLERY

..... 31st AUGUST 2014.....

AMENDED PRESS RELEASE

LOUISA GUINNESS GALLERY TO OPEN “SCALE OF BEAUTY” A RETROSPECTIVE
EXHIBITION OF JEWELLERY BY GREEK ARTIST
SOPHIA VARI



NOVEMBER 13th – DECEMBER 12th 2014

Private View: Wednesday November 12th
6 – 8pm

Louisa Guinness Gallery is delighted to present “Scale of Beauty”, a retrospective show of jewellery by Greek artist Sophia Vari.

This comprehensive show focuses on Sophia Vari’s jewels from the 1980s to the present day. It will include some 50 works from across this period, including a series of new work created exclusively for the exhibition.

Jewellery first became a part of the artist’s oeuvre at a time in her life when a punishing international schedule kept her always on the move. Whilst travelling she would carry with her a small box of Plasticine with which she would mould miniature sculptures. Exploring in small scale the preoccupations of her large-scale work, these miniature plasticine sculptures became the basis of her jewellery designs. In them, Vari elegantly intuits the line between function and form.

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“ If the material is beautiful, the passage of time instead of wearing it out, will refine it”. Only the highest quality marble and bronze are used in Vari’s large-scale works. Similarly, wood, gold and silver as well as coral, lacquer, crystal and root emerald are used in her jewellery. In both the artist employs her signature combination of painterly curves, accenting colour and bold geometric form. The compositional tension found in her large scale work is no less present in her jewellery.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Sophia Vari is a Greek artist who lives and works between Monaco, Columbia, Italy, the United States and Greece. Born in Athens, to a Greek father and a Hungarian mother, Sophia Vari spent part of her childhood in Switzerland, studied in England and France. Famous for both her painting and sculpture, her work has been internationally exhibited in Paris, Athens, Florence, Madrid, New York and Caracas amongst others.

Her work is strongly influenced by Mayan, Egyptian, Olmec, and Cycladic traditions as well as Ancient and Baroque aesthetics. Internationally renowned as a sculptor and a painter in her own right, she is also married to the well-known Columbian painter Fernando Botero.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

About Louisa Guinness Gallery:

The gallery works with today’s leading sculptors and painters to create jewellery as well as collecting and dealing in works by master artists.

The gallery opened in May 2003 with its inaugural exhibition *‘Past and Present; Jewellery by 20th Century Artists’*. With this show Louisa Guinness departed from her original focus on artist-made furniture into the world of artist’s jewels. Since then she has worked on over 18 separate projects with leading contemporary artists.

Each new work is published in a small edition to the highest standard. Most are handmade in London’s famous Hatton Garden district or the artist’s studio. The ethos behind the jewellery is that it should be treated as wearable sculpture: whilst it is not being worn it is a piece of art independent of function, at home on a coffee table or in a dressing room.

Contact

The artist will be in attendance at the Private View and is available at and before the opening for interviews.

Press enquiries: cecily@louisaguinnessgallery.com

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1. *Laocoon Bracelet II*, silver and pink gold set with a miniature sculpture in black marble, diameter: 6.4cm, edition ends at 3/6
2. *Troie Bracelet*, 2011, 18k gold and ebony, edition of 6
3. *Thetis Ring*, 2011, 18k gold 42.50 g, edition of 6
4. *Médée Earrings*, 18k gold and ebony set with a root emerald, edition of 6