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Sense of Smell

Eliasson - Neto - White

29th March - 13th May, 2017

Galería Elvira González is happy to announce the opening on Wednesday the 29 of March the exhibition *Sense of Smell* with works by Olafur Eliasson, Ernesto Neto and Pae White. These three artists have used the sense of smell to perceive their works. Each artist occupies one of the gallery spaces.

"The present is imbued with the past, and it is this that turns a much-loved smell into a time machine. Which of us has not experienced it - the overwhelming smell of the past? These Proustian moments are possible only because our sense of smell is one of the oldest senses there is. The human nose is wired up to the brain stem and hence to the most archaic part of the brain in which conscious thought -a much more recent development- is largely irrelevant. The biomechanical message received here go straight to the limbic system, which is also the seat of emotions."¹

Eliasson, Neto and White have been chosen for the exhibition *Sense of Smell* for the proximity in some of their ideas, which merge in this case in the same interest to bring the sense of smell to their works as a medium for perception. The structure of each of the works in the exhibition is linked to the smell or scent that each work emits, as an element of the composition, as the material, or the form or the colour could be. The scent shapes the perception of the work and emphasizes the artist's message.

The *Moss Wall* by **Olafur Eliasson** is an installation of Reindeer moss (*Cladonia rangiferina*), woven into a wired net along one of the gallery's wall. As the lichen is alive, it changes colour as it dries, shrinking and fading. Once the installation is watered again, the moss expands, recovers its colour and emits a pungent odour. This moss comes from Iceland, country of origin of Eliasson and source of inspiration for many of his works.

The characteristic sensuality in **Ernesto Neto** works speaks about his Brazilian roots. The anthropomorphic form of *O corpo consciente se desloca voador*, site specific work for the show, as well as *Estrelas da terra*, smells of clove, cumin, black pepper and turmeric, and evidences Neto's interest in leading the viewer to a sensorial world, where the smell identifies moments and evokes memories.

Pae White with the installation of four "modules" in the show brings the viewer to the memories through the sense of smell. Quotidian odours associated to specific situations that awakes our memory. The forest of "modules" is an installation creating an environment. Each of these works is a lighting structure that emits a soft scent, emanating from the arbitrary located cauldrons in some of the branches. Each "module" varies slightly of colour and evokes a different personal experience of the artist through the smell.

"Our knowledge of the outside world depends on our modes of perception" Immanuel Kant, 1760

¹ Worm, T. *More Than Just a Passionate Nose. A Scientific Look at the Sense of Smell*. Olafur Eliasson: Dufftunnel & Scent Tunnel. (Hatje Cantz Verlag, Ostfildern-Ruit, 2005). p. 49-50.

Olafur Eliasson



Olafur Eliasson born in 1967 in Copenhagen, from Icelandic parents. He studied in the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Art in Copenhagen from 1985 until 1995. At the beginning of his career, Olafur moved to Berlin, where he established his Studio Olafur Eliasson. In 2003, Eliasson represented Denmark at the 50th Venice Biennale, with *The blind pavilion*. He works in Copenhagen and Berlin.

Olafur Eliasson's art is conceived to engage with public, sharing his interests in perception, movement, embodied experience, and feelings of self, with the experimentation in different fields like sculpture, painting, photography, film and installations.

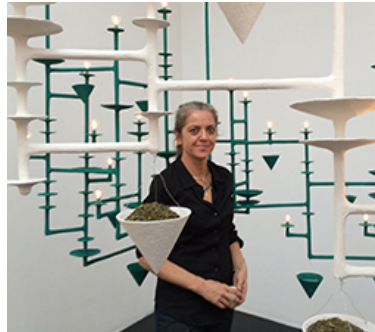
Ernesto Neto

Ernesto Neto born in 1964 in Rio de Janeiro, where he currently lives and works. Neto studied at the Escola de Artes Visuais do Parque Lage in 1994 and 1997. He has done solo exhibitions and has participated in numerous group shows since 1980s. In 2001 represented Brazil at the 49th Venice Biennale.

Neto's work invite visitors to interact with his works, getting inside and experimenting with all our senses. As creator of large installations, he uses organic materials like spices, sand or shells, transforming the usual way of interaction between art and the viewers.



Pae White



Pae White born in 1963 in Pasadena, lives and works in Los Angeles, California. White has since 1989 exhibited in numerous solo shows as well as in group ones national and internationally. She has being involved in numerous commissions including the new design of the map tube for Transport of London, the main stage curtain *Metafoil* for the New Opera House in Oslo and *The Magic Carpet Ride* for the Brandenburg airport in Berlin.

Pae White interest is to encourage spectators to take a deeper look at ordinary objects. Her art ignores the traditional boundaries between the applied and fine arts.

For more information and to request images:

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