

press release

MONA KUHN

Ácido Dorado

From 15 September to 8 November 2016

Opening 15 September at 8.00 p.m.

The gallery presents the series *Ácido dorado*, in what is her third exhibition in the gallery. Mona Kuhn (born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1969) lives and works in Los Angeles (USA) from where she is continually exploring her photographic work, well known for its intimate, contemporary representations of the nude. Through the complicity of her figures, to which she brings her knowledge and mastery of traditional technique and iconology, Mona Kuhn portrays the complexity of human nature, interpreting the body as a print of who we are, independently of sex, age or race, conveying a great sensuality to the gaze of the watcher.

The first exhibition which the gallery, then Galería Estiarte, dedicated to her, in 2007, presented her series *Evidence*, in which the artist introduced us to a private club, a nudist colony in the south of France where she has spent part of her summer holidays. By means of an exquisite treatment of light and colour, she moulds the naked bodies in order to extract an ambiguous sensation. Since these are not professional models and their figures are photographed in their familiar environment, the result that Mona Kuhn produces is free of any sentimental devices. The subtlety of the play of light on the skin, the placid setting under the sun, the intimate contact with nature, all convey a sensual sensation that is suggested, unresolved, unimposed, never vulgar, but instead full of elegance and spontaneity, conveying peace and tranquillity.

In 2012 the gallery, now as Galería Pilar Serra, presented *Native*, the series which arose from the reinterpretation of her past, which led the artist to her country of origin, Brazil, and, in contrast with her previous works, here she sought a conducting thread between people and nature. The landscape also becomes a protagonist and the lush Brazilian jungle becomes mixed with very varied characters who continue to show us their nudity without any awkwardness at all, in images that are full of colour and contrasts of light.

On this occasion we display the series *Ácido dorado*, a work which she began in 2013 in a secluded modernistic style mansion designed by the architect Robert Stone, in the Joshua Tree National Park in California, and in addition to the usual dialogue between the human body and its environment she expands her scope of interest and projects her look towards the desert landscape, taking in the flora and the intense sunlight producing all manner of reflections and transparencies, leading us to abstract photography for the first time. Six medium size photographs and two large format ones make up this exhibition with which we open the season as part of the Apertura programme organised by the association Artemadrid, at the same time as we open the expansion of our exhibition space in our head office in Sta. Engracia, 6.

Mona Kuhn graduated from the University of Ohio and then from the Art Institute of San Francisco. Since 1998 she has been carrying out complementary studies in the Getty Research Institute of Los Angeles. In 2006 she was selected for the BM-ParisPhoto photography prize. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and institutions in the USA, Europe and South America, including the Louvre Museum in Paris, the San Diego Museum of Photography, the Musée de L'Élysée in Lausanne and the Honolulu Museum of Art, Hawaii.