

Galerie Francesca Pia

Press release

February 2007

Vidya Gastaldon **Huge Reality**

March 30 – May 12, 2007

Opening: Thursday, March 29, 6 – 8 p.m.

Galerie Francesca Pia is pleased to inaugurate its new gallery space in Zurich with an exhibition of landscape drawings and wool installations by Vidya Gastaldon.

The drawings, textile sculptures and installations of Vidya Gastaldon combine symbolism from the domains of religion, mysticism and everyday culture into multilayered landscapes and sculptures. The imagery she uses brings to mind scientific representations of organic cell structures, mystical symbols derived from the Hippie and New Age culture and interchangeable elements of real landscapes. The artist seamlessly joins dimensions of reality with those of the imagination and microscopic elements with macroscopic ones, which, in turn, are playfully interspersed with symbols derived from pop culture – Smileys, manga-like goddesses, Darth Vader –, characters from a universally familiar mythology, and estranged amorphous beings, evoking fluid transitions between different layers of consciousness. The titles of the works are humorous, though never ironic.

In her show in Zurich, Vidya Gastaldon will combine new landscape drawings with objects and installations into a universe of its own. With merging water colors and delicate pencil marks, her drawings create a world of soft, seemingly organic forms, in which opposite elements join to form a complex imagery. For her sculptures, Vidya Gastaldon uses old-fashioned media or crafts, such as knitting, crocheting, and sewing, and her fetishistically charged objects encourage viewers to reflect on the material quality of things. Like the drawings, the installations, too, conflate several dimensions. Twelve small wool piles are suspended in space at eye level and create a valley, while, at the same time, recalling illustrations in ancient Buddhist scriptures representing the different levels of consciousness or the attainment of paradise on earth. On the floor, there is a landscape made of wool lint, which, at closer inspection, reveals a hologram-like image of a holy figure – the image that, according to Kantian philosophy, is the object of man's yearning, in which thought materializes as an apparition.

Vidya Gastaldon draws her viewers into a universe of her own making, in which the dream-like, in fact, is occasionally heightened, crossing over into the imaginary, or even the hallucinogenic.

Galerie Francesca Pia, Limmatstraße 275, 8005 Zürich, www.francescapia.com

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Next exhibition: Mai-Thu Perret, opening May 25

Current exhibitions by Vidya Gastaldon

January 16 – March 10, Vidya Gastaldon, *Stop Believing, Start Knowing*, Swiss Institute, New York

February 1 – April 1, Centre d'édition contemporaine, BAC, *Wunder Stanza*, Geneva

February 10 – June 10, Villa Arson, *HALF SQUARE, HALF CRAZY/A DEMI CARRE, A DEMI FOU*, Nice

February 18 – March 20, Salon 94, *Hello I'm Crashing*, New York

March 10 – May 20, Marres Art Centre, RAW. *Among the Ruins*, Maastricht

April 15 – July 15, Centre Culturel Suisse, *Evenement Sans titre #01/07*, Paris

Coming up

Soloshow at Atelier Hermes, Seoul

Major past exhibitions

Kunstmuseum Thun, *Vidya Gastaldon*, Thun, 2006

Art Statements, Art Basel, 2006

MAMCO, *Bioloorama*, Geneva, 2005

Biennale de Lyon, *Expérience de la durée*, Lyon, 2005

Musée d'art Moderne, Couvent des Cordeliers, *I believe in miracles*, Paris, 2005

Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva, 2001 und 2003

Monograph: Karl Holmqvist, Madeleine Schuppli, and Fabrice Stroun, *Vidya Gastaldon*, JRP Ringier editions, Zurich, 2006