Art Basel Miami Beach

Survey: Virginia Jaramillo

Hales Gallery, Booth S4
Miami Beach, FL

Private Day (by invitation only):
Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Vernissage (by invitation only):
Thursday, December 6, 2018

Public Days: 6–9, 2018
Art Basel Miami Beach, 2018

Hales is delighted to announce its return to Art Basel Miami Beach for the fair’s 2018 edition, with a solo presentation of historic works by American artist Virginia Jaramillo. Painted in New York in the 1970s, these three monumental paintings have never before been publicly exhibited. Exemplary of the artist’s early use of Earth pigments and watermarking processes, layered washes of paint create a deep, sensory space.

Over a career spanning six decades, Jaramillo has forged a distinctive voice, experimenting with material and process to pursue her ongoing explorations of human perceptions of reality. She strives to express materially our sensory perceptions of space and time in what she describes as an aesthetic investigation which seeks to translate into visual terms the mental structural patterns we all superimpose on our world – the framework of reference points we use to distinguish the ‘real’ from the ‘unreal.’\(^1\)

Born in El Paso, Texas, Jaramillo spent her formative years in California before relocating to New York from the Watts Area of Los Angeles following the Civil Rights protests of the 1960s. Living and working on Spring Street in New York’s Soho and involved in the burgeoning and dynamic art scene, she developed lasting ties with art world figures such as Melvin Edwards, Dan Christenson, Kenneth Noland, and Frank Bowling. Jaramillo’s work evolved in response to this environment of bold creative experimentation, particularly in the field of abstraction.

This series of stained works see a break from Jaramillo’s previous endeavour to create smooth and pristine surfaces. Instead, thin washes of paint are applied, developing a process of embedding colour into the canvas, echoing the use of different materials Jaramillo began experimenting with in 1979. The resulting experience of the considered layering of translucent colours in *Epsilon Endi* (1978), *Indo 3* (1975), and *Altotron* (1976), transports the viewer beyond the painted surface, evoking cosmic or metaphysical planes of existence. In Jaramillo’s work multiple cosmologies exist, and the titles she assigns to the canvases take inspiration from Greek mythologies, pre-Hispanic and non-Western systems of organisation, and classical and sacred geometry. Underlying the work is an understanding of space, surface and the organisation of the world around us.

Preceding Art Basel Miami Beach, Hales New York opens *Foundations* on 18th October, a solo exhibition of Virginia Jaramillo’s most recent body of work made in 2018. In this new series, Jaramillo returns to painting, utilising diverse brushstroke techniques to build rich, varied textural surfaces which distinguish fractured and fragmented forms.

As the global art community’s attention increasingly comes to recognise the historic and aesthetic significance of Jaramillo’s paintings, Hales’ presentation at Art Basel Miami Beach 2018 highlights a pivotal moment in Jaramillo’s career, reflecting recent critical acclaim in blockbuster touring exhibitions *We Wanted a Revolution: Black Radical Women, 1965-85* (Brooklyn Museum, Californian African American Museum, Albright Knox Gallery, ICA Boston) and *Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power* (Tate Modern, Crystal Bridges, Brooklyn Museum.)


\(^1\) Artist statement for the series Visual Theorems, 1981
ABOUT HALE SGALLERY

Founded by Paul Hedge and Paul Maslin in 1992, for over two decades Hales Gallery has been a focal point for artists, collectors and institutional figures alike and has formed an important environment for the development and distribution of artworks and ideas. At the core of the gallery’s principles is the nurturing of emerging talents alongside that of some of the 20th and 21st centuries’ most significant creative figures. Originally founded and based in London, Hales opened a Project Room on New York’s Lower East Side district in 2017. In an exciting development, in October 2018, Hales opened a main gallery space in Chelsea, New York, which will act as a platform through which to further reinforce the connection between the London gallery’s roster of artists and the international art community.

Hales Gallery regularly places its artists’ works in the collections of some of the world’s most significant private and public collections and works closely with respected curators and advisors in doing this. Some examples of the museum collections which have acquired works by Hales Gallery artists include Tate (London), Victoria & Albert Museum (London), The Whitney Museum of American Art (NYC), MoMA (NYC), The Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC) and the Brooklyn Museum (NYC).

ABOUT ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH

Art Basel Miami Beach brings together leading galleries from North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa. This year, over 200 of the world’s leading international Modern and contemporary art galleries display artworks by over 4,000 artists, including paintings, sculptures, installations, photography, film, video, and digital art. Visitors can find works ranging from editioned pieces by young artists to museum-caliber masterpieces.

ABOUT SURVEY

The ‘survey’ section presents precise art historical projects. These may include solo presentations by an individual artist, juxtapositions and thematic exhibits from artists representing a range of cultures, generations and artistic approaches.
Virginia Jaramillo, *Altotron*, 1976, installation view