

PRESS RELEASE

PILAR CORRIAS PRESENTS JULIÃO SARMENTO REMARKS ON COLOUR'

15 FEBRUARY – 19 MARCH 2011

PRIVATE VIEW: MONDAY 14 FEBRUARY 6–8PM

GALLERY OPEN: MONDAY – FRIDAY 10AM–6PM, SATURDAY 11AM–6PM



© JULIÃO SARMENTO, 2010

Pilar Corrias is pleased to announce 'Remarks on Colour': an exhibition of new works by Julião Sarmento, his first with the gallery.

Born in Lisbon in 1948, Julião Sarmento studied Painting and Architecture at Escola Superior de Belas Artes in Lisbon where he received his MA in 1974. One of the most important artists of his generation, Sarmento has exhibited extensively since the 1970s. Working across painting, collage, sculpture, photography, and video, Sarmento has developed a unique practice characterized by a concise visual vocabulary that explores themes of memory, transgression, seduction and desire.

The richness and complexity of Sarmiento's work lies in its system of free-floating signifiers that travel between works and across the boundaries of medium. The use of recurring motifs such as hand gestures, parts of bodies and architectural floor plans generate a free-play of associations that refuse to settle into meaning.

Taking its title from Ludwig Wittengstein's philosophical notes of the same name, *Remarks on Colour* expands Sarmiento's ongoing dissection of the mechanisms of looking to examine our sensory perception of colour. In four major new canvases the expansive white painting fields and partially erased, layered forms for which Sarmiento is renowned are disrupted by the introduction of the three primaries red, yellow and blue. Silkscreened photographic images leave the white impasto surface simultaneously empty and highly charged.

In a new series of collages passages of Wittengstein's notoriously fragmented philosophical notes on colour appear taped to the surfaces flanked by silkscreened images of a Modernist house in Silver Lake, Los Angeles and seemingly unrelated photographic images. Deliberately constructed, artificial and controlled the montage of these disjunctive elements resists coherent narrative leaving the viewer in a state of psychological limbo.

This disorientation is further compounded by a new sculptural tableau *White Exit* 2010/2011 – a life-size female figure rendered in bronze caught in the last moment of exiting a room leaving a single glass of milk behind. The architectural detailing and milk seem to refer back to some indeterminate domestic interior, yet ultimately any attempt to superimpose meaning is futile. The subject of the work is that which is absent. For Sarmiento, it is the negative space – the space outside the frame – that is active. The unnerving physicality of the sculpture functions in the same way as the "blindness" of his paintings by activating the space around the viewer as a dynamic space of possibility.

'There is no such thing as phenomenology but there are indeed phenomenological problems.' Wittengstein states. Charged with suggestion and ambiguity, Sarmiento's extraordinary new body of work foregrounds the impossibility of truly grasping experience.

Julião Sarmiento at Tate Modern

The exhibition at Pilar Corrias Gallery coincides with a solo display of Julião Sarmiento's work in the Tate Collection on view at Tate Modern until April 2011.

On Saturday 12 February, the artist will be in conversation with critic and writer Adrian Searle at Tate Modern, Starr Auditorium, 2–3.30pm. To book tickets, please call 020 7887 8888.

Julião Sarmiento lives and works in Estoril, Portugal. Julião Sarmiento represented Portugal at the Venice Biennial in 1997. His work is represented in public collections worldwide including: The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Musée National d'Art Moderne Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; the Stedelijk Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, and the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo.

*For further information and images, please contact Lara Asole on
+44 (0)20 7323 7000 or lara@pilarcorrias.com*