

Velvet da Vinci

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CONTACT: Mike Holmes
415.441.0109
info@velvetdavinci.com

Delirio y Cordura

Delirium and Sanity



Claudio Pino, *Interactive Mirror*, 14k Gold, 925 Silver, Mirror, Pearl, Opals

VELVET DA VINCI

Delirio y Cordura (Delirium and Sanity)

July 9 - August 10, 2014

Opening Reception: Friday July 11, 6-8 pm

Artist's Talk: 6:30 pm

An exhibition catalog is available.

Participating artists:

Carolina Gimeno, Carolina Hornahuer, Claudia Correa, Claudio Pino, Francisco Ceppi, Gabriela Fissore, Maria Eugenia Munoz, Maria Ignacia Walker, Nicolas Hernandez, Paola Raggo, Pia Walker, Rafaella Pruzzo, Rocco Napoli, Valentina Rosenthal, Veronica Perez, Walka Studio, Yessica Bordon.

Carolina Gimeno, Paola Raggo, Nano Pulgar Walka and Claudia Betancourt Lisperguer will be present at the Opening Reception to speak about Contemporary Jewelry in Chile, Friday July 11 at 6:30 pm.

San Francisco's Velvet da Vinci is proud to present: **Delirio y Cordura (Delirium and Sanity)** an exhibition of contemporary Chilean jewelry. In the ten years since **Joyas Jóias**, our first exhibition of Latin American jewelry, there has been a growing awareness and appreciation for the achievements of contemporary jewelers in Mexico, Argentina, Peru and Brazil. For our exhibition, **Delirio y Cordura (Delirium and Sanity)** we concentrate on contemporary Chilean jewelry artists. Each jeweler was inspired by the themes of delirium and sanity, choosing one or both concepts. The idea of harmony and balance versus insanity and irrationality influence the creation of each work through an exploration of shape, color, material, and concept. Chaos, out of order.

In his essay for the exhibition catalog, writer Dr. Kevin Murray compares the settlement of North America by rational Puritans to the conquistadors bringing Catholicism and its ability to accommodate some indigenous traditions in South America. "Though more successful as an empire, the North was less able to engage with the indigenous cultures it dispossessed. The rituals and heterogeneity of Catholicism connected better with the original cosmovisions than the cold rational Protestantism". This cultural difference is played out in jewelers of the South as the ritual value of jewelry as a means of securing magical power is still a viable impulse.

The 17 artists represented in **Delirio y Cordura** explore the role of jewelry in modern Chile. Murray writes:

"What is lost in this modernization is not only the aristocratic associations of jewelry. Also lost is the ritual value of jewelry as a means of securing magical power. The very process of 'civilization' seems to inevitably entail the abandonment of 'power objects', such as trinkets, charms and amulets. Modern jewelry is a much more sterile medium than its traditional forebear; it reduces everything to aesthetics, whether on the gallery wall, the fashion catwalk or shop cabinet.

Despite this process, the South is still home to living talismanic traditions. The Peruvian gift stores in down- town Santiago contain all kinds of cheap charms like magic seeds that promise to empower the wearer. Rather than ignore this as part of the traditional baggage that contemporary jewelry seeks to transcend, there is always the potential for a 'restoration' in which the discipline is enlivened by deep-rooted cultural associations. There is a general perception that the international contemporary jewelry scene is too inward looking. The modernist course has come to an end, creatively. Individual originality after a while can begin to seem derivative. There's only so many non-traditional materials and techniques that can be included."

The exhibition was curated by **Paola Raggo**, **Claudia Correa**, and **María Eugenia Muñoz Curbelo**. A special thank you to **Consejo Nacional de la Cultura y las Artes**, (National Council for Culture and the Arts), Chile. Additional support from **Delirios Contemporaneos** and **The Canada Council for the Arts**.

Since 1991, Velvet da Vinci has been a leader in showcasing new developments in contemporary art jewelry and craft-based sculpture. Representing artists from the US, Europe, Latin America and Japan, the quality and range of work shown at Velvet da Vinci gallery has made it a regular must-see stop for collectors, museum curators, and other knowledgeable art and art-jewelry enthusiasts. We invite you to visit the gallery at 2015 Polk Street in San Francisco, or online at www.velvetdavinci.com.

***High-res images and further information regarding individual artists is available upon request.**



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Carolina Gimeno
Encounter IV, Brooch
Birch, sterling silver
13 x 11 x 5 cm



Maria Eugenia Munoz
Delirium Tremensdoscópicos Ring
Sterling silver, copper, acrylic, mirror, swarovski crystal
4.5 x 2.5 x 3 cm



Raffaella Pruzzo
Dulcinea, Ring
Oxidized sterling silver, book pages
7 x 7 x 5 cm



Walka Studio
T-Oro Sagrado
Bull horn, gold plating brass, steel
6 x 6 x 4.5 cm



Claudio Pino
Tactus
Sterling silver, brass, copper, moonstone, pink tourmaline