



SARAH LEDERMAN & ALEXANDER LUMSDEN

RESPONSES: *PARUS MAJOR* & *PICA PICA*

Orion Contemporary, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Unit 12, 21 Wren Street, London, WC1X 0HF

Private View 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016, 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Exhibition Dates: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016

In 2015 Sarah Lederman and Alexander Lumsden were introduced to two paintings from the 1930s by Swedish artist Mosse Stoopendaal. They were invited to freely respond to these works, unimpeded by boundaries and curatorial trends. Lederman and Lumsden have therefore created artistic responses to paintings of *Magpies (Pica Pica)* and *Great Tits (Parus Major)* rooted in their individual practices and interpretations. Paintings by Lederman and sculptures by Lumsden reflect on the freedom of wild birds in contrast to humanity's eternal struggle with and within its own confines.

Alexander Lumsden quotes the 13<sup>th</sup> century Persian version of the spiritual couplet *The Elephant in the Dark Room* by Maulána Jalálu-d'-Dín Muhammad *i* Rúmí. The moral of the story is that each person responding individually to a situation inevitably creates conflicts instead of resolving problems. This cements Lumsden's artistic credo that "the figures *could* be anyone, and in a way *become* everyone." His sculptures of contemporary immigrants - cocooned in their sleeping bags - trapped by our society's inability to cooperate, embody the anyone and everyone.

Lumsden's response sits in juxtaposition to the collaborative magpies and great tits that are not migratory birds but are however borderless. Other works by Lumsden in the exhibition incorporate elements of found objects. This part of his oeuvre illustrates Lumsden's concern that "unlike the animal kingdom, our world is filled with defined borders and regulations, which have forever changed the pattern of human migration and ultimately our ability to relate to one another".

[www.orioncontemporary.com](http://www.orioncontemporary.com)

Orion Contemporary, L.L. Partnership No. Oc339134

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In contrast, Sarah Lederman's artistic practice is firmly based in the materiality of paint applied to canvas. In this sense her work has a common thread with Stoopendaal's artistic output. Lederman also incorporates animals in her paintings but as she remarks they are more akin to "small creatures [that] crawl across the body of the paintings looking for something to suckle on".

The pure colours of Stoopendaal's works are mirrored by Lederman in her responses. Yet within the paintings we find the contrasts; her apparently calm paintings are informed by medieval illuminated manuscripts, Japanese 'shunga' prints and traditional representations of femininity. Within this calmness lies an exploration of the materiality of paint to create an environment where the female body is fluid, free, and uncontrollable. Lederman has moved away from a focus on the female body but spurred by the *Great Tits* a subtler exploration of femininity resides within her paintings.

## Notes to Editors

**Orion Contemporary** was founded in 2008 and is run by Andrés Olow Clase.

It now has a semi-permanent base within **Fiumano Projects** space in the King's Cross/Farringdon area of London, having previously been a nomadic gallery. The gallery programme centres around promoting young and emerging artists with a strong focus on Nordic art.

Having previously been part of the paintings team at Sotheby's, London, Andrés gives Orion Contemporary an international outlook with his strong ties to England, Italy and Spain as well as his native Sweden. He also retains a strong interest in European Old Master Paintings.

**Sarah Lederman** graduated (BA) from Chelsea College of Art in 2008. She was first shown by Orion Contemporary the same autumn. She has since been awarded the Catlin Art Prize (2009), completed various artist residencies and obtained her MA in Fine Arts at Goldsmiths College (2014). Her practice is featured in the 'Mirrors to Windows: The Artist as Woman' film by Emmy and Peabody award-winning filmmaker Susan Steinberg. The documentary was screened to sold out audiences at the Freud Museum and National Portrait Gallery in January 2016.

**Alexander Lumsden** arrived back in the UK in 2011 after four years in Argentina and the Dominican Republic. In 2012 he was the Daler Rowney Artist in Residence whilst 2014 saw him return to his native Gothenburg. There, an exhibition of his paintings and sculptures focused on shifting human and social fabric of the city as it transforms from its maritime shipping roots to a 21<sup>st</sup> century global marketplace. Similar considerations of human nature and its urban milieu have been explored by Lumsden in London. *Responses* sees his work elevated into a fully global context.



*RESPONSES: PARUS MAJOR* is located at 21 Wren Street. The nearest underground stations are Russell Square and Chancery Lane (Piccadilly and Central lines). The nearest railway stations are King's Cross and Farringdon. Numerous busses pass nearby.

Opening times:

19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> May: 11am - 6pm

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May: 12pm - 4pm

24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> May: 11am - 6pm

31<sup>st</sup> May 11am - 6pm

All other times by appointment.

[www.orioncontemporary.com](http://www.orioncontemporary.com)

Admission Free.

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