

P R E S S R E L E A S E

ANDRES SERRANO

Jerusalem

May 3 – June 16, 2018

Opening reception: Thursday May 3, 5 - 7 pm in the presence of the artist
Welcome!

In our final exhibition we are proud to present the American artist Andres Serrano. Not only is he one of the most remarkable contemporary photographers alive, he is also the artist who has been represented by the gallery the longest, since 1994. The exhibition *Jerusalem*, the artist's fifth at the gallery, features a selection of monumental colour photographs from Serrano's series *Jerusalem (Holy Land)* from 2014. Works from the series have previously been shown at Petit Palais in Paris and Huis Marseilles in Amsterdam. Serrano was last presented in Stockholm in the solo exhibition *Redemption* at Fotografiska in 2015.

Andres Serrano is known for pushing the ethical limits of photography. His works examine the idea of representation and transcend preconceived notions of whom and what is deemed worthy of being made into art. By artistically portraying subject matter that is otherwise considered unseemly - such as corpses, bodily excretions and torture devices - and transforming it into shockingly beautiful photographs, Serrano also challenges traditional notions of what is holy and what is profane. Likewise, the artist is famous for his magnificent portraits of a broad spectrum of people; Church members, soldiers, homeless people, celebrities, transsexuals, politicians, Native Americans and Ku Klux Klansmen are all portrayed respectfully and equally. Serrano's imagery often reveals his deep-rooted fascination with religious iconography and doctrine. But his photographs are also palpably shaped by his training in painting and sculpture - the works appear painterly with careful attention to mass, balance and composition, and are dramatically suffused with light and saturated colour.

Six analogue photographic works are on view, taken during Serrano's wanderings in Jerusalem. The artist was invited by the Jerusalem Foundation to guest lecture at the Musrara School of Photography. The Jerusalem series show his characteristic

portraiture, but also interiors and exteriors and even landscape photography, which is new territory for the artist. "My interest was religious, social, political, cultural, architectural and geographical", Serrano says. Though diverse in subject matter, the presented photographs are united in their restrained yet striking aesthetics. The nun's composure, the illuminated passageways, the stark landscape, the gilded interior of a church and the bloody carcasses hanging, all emanate a sense of calm and mystery. The religion portrayed in the photographs is neither political nor provocative in nature, but rather express a kind of ethereal beauty.

Andres Serrano was born in 1950 in New York City, where he also lives and works today. He attended the Brooklyn Museum Art School from 1967 to 1969. Serrano's work has been exhibited in reputable institutions worldwide. Recent venues for solo exhibitions include the Red Brick Art Museum Beijing, Beijing (2017); Jack Shainman Gallery, New York (2017); Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston (2017); Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris (2016); Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris (2016); Collection Lambert en Avignon, Avignon (2016). The artist's work is represented in some of the world's most prestigious collections, such as the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York; Smithsonian Archives, Washington D.C.; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Stedelijk Museum of Amsterdam, Amsterdam; Musées Royaux des Beaux Arts de Belgique, Brussels; Musée d'Art Contemporain de Bordeaux, Bordeaux; Pinault Collection, Venice; Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid; Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Centro Cultural Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico City; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.

The artist will be in Stockholm May 3 – 4.
Press images available upon request.

Text by Sandrina Cerda.