

I D E N T I T Y



**29 Arts In Progress and Identity Art Gallery unveil “Nature, Interrupted”:  
meditations upon nature by two Italian artists**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 2014**

**29 Arts In Progress, London and Identity Art Gallery, Hong Kong** present “Nature, Interrupted”, a joint exhibition featuring paintings by Italian artists Natalie Silva and Barbara Nicoli. The exhibition showcases intense human dialogues with nature, and brings together two diverse art practices that are conceptually anchored in the living world. The artists explore nature by mimicking, meddling and freezing elements on their canvasses, reproducing and reconceptualising our environment through painting. **Shown for the first time in Hong Kong, the exhibition runs from 25 - 30 September 2014 at the Hong Kong Arts Centre and from 4-7 October 2014 at Fine Art Asia 2014.**

**Natalie Silva** explores and documents human interactions with nature, focusing on light and its infinite colours. In Silva’s work, human figures are situated in an aqueous space that is seemingly indistinct, yet recognizably fluid. She explores how these figures interact with space, as shown through the concordance of iridescent colors, organic gestures, and eclectic use of light. Silva propounds, “[My characters] *express themselves through color, brushstrokes and movement*”.

To commend Silva’s unique effort to elucidate the complex relationship between nature and human, art critics have coined the term “in-natural” after her works, in reference to her practice. Silva’s “in-natural” practice investigates organic processes and mechanisms, and reproduces these findings in her paintings. “In-natural” creates a new reality of nature through painting that transcends imitation of nature, but confronts the audience with pictorial material by extracting and transforming it. Silva’s process opens the mind into new and diverse sensations and visual dimensions - creating a new reality for the viewers to inhabit.

**Barbara Nicoli** ‘s works are known for their vibrant energy, derived from the artist’s background as a performing artist. Drawing her inspirations from both the visual and performing traditions, Nicoli synthesizes the delicate balance between nature and man. Nicoli is concerned with the human’s interaction with the wild, in particular the delicate balance between societal development and nature’s coexistence, ruled by each side’s ultimate quest for survival. She does so by using materials such as metal spikes, branches, leaves and employs traditional techniques such as the intaglio printing to manipulate, shape, recreate and reinterpret the mystery of existence and its elusive meaning.

“Nature, Interrupted” is the inaugural exhibition jointly presented by 29 Arts in Progress and Identity Art Gallery held in Hong Kong. In an era of increasing tensions between man and nature, the exhibition strives to explore the paradigm of alternative dynamics between the two elements within the boundless vacuum of art. It is through this continuous quest that harmony is possible.

### **Exhibition details**

Exhibition Title: “Nature, Interrupted”

Media Preview: 25 September 2014, 5.00p.m. – 06.00p.m.

Opening Preview: 25 September 2014, 6.00p.m. – 8.00p.m

Exhibition Period: Hong Kong Arts Centre  
26 - 29 September 2014, 10.00 a.m. – 08.00 p.m.  
30 September 2014, 10.00 a.m. – 06.00p.m.  
&  
Fine Art Asia 2014  
4-7 October 2014,  
Opening hours: <http://www.fineartasia.com/openhours.htm>

Venues: Hong Kong Arts Centre  
5th Floor, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Pao Galleries, 2 Harbour Road,  
Wanchai, Hong Kong  
&  
Fine Art Asia 2014  
Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, 1 Expo Drive, Wanchai, Hong  
Kong

### **Notes to the Editor:**

#### **About 29 Arts In Progress**

29 Arts In Progress, a London-based full service company that provides a global platform to bring together various stakeholders in the world of art. With the philosophy and mission to actively contribute to the global development of contemporary art as ambassadors of cultural diversity, the company is committed to bring the highest organizational and artistic standards in the art business. 29 Arts In Progress fosters the development of talented contemporary artists by creating carefully curated art experiences through the permanent and temporary art exhibitions it organizes around the world. Through these experiences, it provides a platform to bring together artists, curators and art galleries, offering outstanding services to collectors, intermediaries and investors interested in buying unique works of art.

For more information, please visit [29artsinprogress.com](http://29artsinprogress.com), email: [info@29artsinprogress.com](mailto:info@29artsinprogress.com)

#### **About Identity Art Gallery Hong Kong**

Art is Long, Life is Short. Identity Art Gallery brings together visionary art identities who respect art as a lifelong, enduring creative endeavour existing outside the realms of fads and fashion. We discover and promote artists from all four corners of the world, whose strong inner visions foster, seduce, confront and bolster our identities across a diverse range of media, in unusual, direct and lasting manners.

Beauty and colours are our mutual interest; simplicity and integrity our common language. Forging links and synergies among like-minded artists, collectors, galleries and curators through solo exhibitions and group collaborations, our ultimate vision is to cultivate an environment where creativity and identities may further flourish.

For more information, please visit [identityartgallery.com](http://identityartgallery.com), email: [info@identityartgallery.com](mailto:info@identityartgallery.com)

### About Natalie Silva

German-born Natalie Silva (b. 1962), attended University of Maryland and Luigi Bocconi University. She held her first solo exhibition at the Mudima Gallery in Milan in 2001. Since then, she has held solo exhibitions and has been featured in group exhibitions in Switzerland, Slovenia, London, Paris and Los Angeles. Solo exhibitions include *The Narcissism of the Artist*, Mudima 2 Gallery, Milan (2001); *Grey Panthers*, Archaeological Museum G. Rossi and Library Museum Bicknel, Ventimiglia (2005); *Backstreetboys*, Dotfiftyone Gallery, Miami (2007); *Backstreetboys*, by Arrangement of the Royal Academy of Arts, London (2007); *Corporate Culture*, Gallery Canvas, Dallas (2008); *GWG girls with guns*, Dotfiftyone Gallery, Miami (2009); *Ordinary People*, Galleria Studio, Milan (2009); *Latest Works*, Galleria Studio, Milan (2009); and *Dreamers*, Museum Villa Boselli, Arma di Taggia (2012). Silva participated in Art Basel Miami in 2004, 2010 and 2012.



Natalie Silva, 2013 – **Can't get you out of my head**  
150x150 cm, mixed media on linen



Natalie Silva, 2014 – **Twist and Turn**  
100x100 cm, mixed media on canvas



Natalie Silva, 2013 – **Spreading Wings**  
100x100 cm, mixed media on linen



Natalie Silva, 2014 – **To the Wonder**  
100x120 cm, mixed media on linen

### About Barbara Nicoli

Barbara Nicoli (b.1975) is a visual artist, performance artist and actress. She graduated from the Conservation of Cultural Heritage - History of Contemporary Art, the University of Parma (2000), obtained a Museum Practitioner diploma at the Fondazione Magnani Rocca (1997), and completed a specialization course for curators under Ludovico Pratesi at the Visual Arts Center of Pesaro Fish (2008). Group exhibitions have been held at Gallery Ariel, Turin (2008), and Open Art Prize, Rome, Sale del Bramante (2007).



Barbara Nicoli, 2013 – **Artifices** – 70x50 cm, mixed media on pure cotton paper



Barbara Nicoli, 2013 – **Expansions** – 70x50 cm, mixed media on pure cotton paper