

rosenfeld porcini

## Press Release

**Francisco de Corcuera**

*The Impossible Existence of a Mathematician*

8 May – 27 June 2013

Private View: Tuesday 7 May

6.30-8.30pm

37 Rathbone Street

London

W1T 1NZ



Francisco de Corcuera, Untitled XXI, 2012  
Oil, acrylic and pencil on canvas, 190.5x220cm

**rosenfeld porcini presents *The Impossible Existence of a Mathematician*, the inaugural UK solo exhibition by the Chilean artist Francisco de Corcuera.**

The exhibition will show large scale works on canvas across both floors of the gallery space. It will present both a series of Corcuera's black paintings alongside a series of lighter, more colour intense works. The materials used are a combination of oil-based mediums, acrylic and graphite on canvas.

Born in Chile in 1944, Francisco de Corcuera has lived for many years outside his native land. Immersed in the arts since childhood, he has always considered himself first and foremost a painter. Throughout the various decades, his works have retained a constant philosophical preoccupation – he is, by his own declaration, a conceptual artist yet equally importantly a painter.

Raised in a strong Catholic background, he has been haunted by the impossibility of living life by the rigid structures which organised western religions impose upon the believer. He has endlessly posed himself the question: can one live life by order and rules alone or will life itself inevitably get in the way? His paintings, notwithstanding their formal development, have conceptually always illustrated this dynamic quandary.

He begins the process of painting by drawing a complex grid of geometric lines, mathematical theorems and algebraic symbols. However, once this foundation is complete, the artist begins making marks with a far greater sense of freedom; areas of colour emerge as do strange forms which appear raised off the canvas like strips of coloured paper. Yet these are, in reality, skilfully painted illusions – a homage to the *trompe d'oeil* tradition of the eighteenth century.

"Since very early on, I have been fascinated by illusion, particularly the magic in art, in the transformative power of painting. The turning or changing of flat surfaces into an image of convincing reality was my main concern" - Francisco de Corcuera

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As with all great art in whatever medium, the unravelling of a work's narrative content (even true for abstract art like Corcuera's) will always be open to interpretation. The critic Thomas Michael Gunther has also written about the artist's work and found a very different way to read the paintings:

"Blueprints of time, architectonic models, cosmic patterns, universal formulae, the paintings of Francisco de Corcuera trace the possibilities of change. Conceived in the dark night, like the poems of Saint John on the Cross which inspire him, these canvases explore the manifestations of the dynamic principle that moves the world." - Thomas Michael Gunther

Corcuera's own words further articulate his vast ambition: "For the past three decades or so, I have been trying to chart, to measure, to embody the very nature of thinking. That is, not only the image itself but also the ontological "all in one". Neither object nor subject but rather "subject"."

A 16<sup>th</sup> Century ancestor Rodrigo de Corcuera was an extremely well-known cartographer therefore the ideas of drawing lines and mapping out systems, real or imagined, have remained in Corcuera's family lineage.

In the constant evolution of painting as a discipline and a medium, Corcuera's work offers a distinctive voice. The lightly but densely constructed mesh of marks and delicate seductive colour draws the viewer into a world that allows them to enter into a profound dialogue. Each individual painting seduces us through its visual beauty and at the same time creating a tension in the opposing ideas which confront us in the lines of the canvas.

#### Notes to Editors:

Francisco de Corcuera was born in Chile in 1944. He currently lives and works in Morocco. He has featured in several solo and group exhibitions at galleries and museums internationally including Musee d'Art Contemporain, Tangier, Morocco; Fine Arts Museum, Santiago, Chile; Museum of Modern Art, Stockholm; Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Stockholm. Corcuera's works have been acquired by numerous private and public collections such as the Museum Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Museum of Malmo, Sweden; Museum of Modern Art, Santiago, Chile; the UN Collection and the First National Citibank Collection, New York; and the Cardenas Collection, New York. His work has further been shown at several fairs including Art Basel and the Biennale of Menton, France.

#### Rosenfeld Porcini Gallery

Founded in June 2011 by Ian Rosenfeld and Dario Porcini, directors of Italy's Galleria Napoli Nobilissima, rosenfeld porcini occupies a prime location in the heart of the dynamic gallery district of London's Fitzrovia. With 3,000 square feet of gallery space, rosenfeld porcini has a strong international outlook committed to showing contemporary artists from around the world with an innovative exhibitions programme. Old Master and Modern shows will occasionally be presented, either monographic or themed, within the context of the contemporary space, exploring a firm curatorial belief in the continuity that underlies the story of art.

#### Exhibition Schedule

8 May – 27 June 2013	Francisco de Corcuera: <i>The Impossible Existence of a Mathematician</i>
3 July – Sept 2013	Before and After Cinema: Themed Exhibition
Sept – Nov 2013	Lanfranco Quadrio: Solo Exhibition

Nearest Tube:	Oxford Circus, Tottenham Court Road and Goodge Street
Opening Times:	11am-7pm Tuesday to Saturday