



Sanctuary for Furies, 1974, oil on canvas, 39 x 27 in (69 x 99 cm)

MEDIA ALERT:

Leonora Carrington: The Celtic Surrealist
April 3 – May 31, 2014

Gallery Reception: Thursday, April 3, 2014, 6-8 pm
Gallery Wendi Norris
161 Jessie Street (at New Montgomery), San Francisco, CA 94105

SAN FRANCISCO, CA.

Gallery Wendi Norris presents *Leonora Carrington: The Celtic Surrealist*, a traveling subset of works from the critically acclaimed 2013 exhibition at the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) in Dublin. In the gallery's second solo show for Carrington (English, 1917-2011), and the first since Carrington's death in 2011, *The Celtic Surrealist* comprises paintings, gouaches, and rarely exhibited tapestries from 1948-

1974. Carrington's otherworldly narrative paintings comprised of hybrid creatures, twisted mythological narratives, and politically charged and humorous fairytales are further understood by revisiting her Irish ancestry as well as referencing the epic tales told to her by her Irish grandmother and mother. Carrington's upper-class English upbringing mixed with her inherent unorthodox and mischievous nature fueled the visual vocabulary of much of her work. Her singular vision may be even better explained through the multicultural references inherent in the work. Themes such as metamorphosis and transformation prevail throughout the artworks in the exhibition. For example, a seven-piece gouache series, exhibited at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum's seminal exhibition, *Two Private Eyes* (1999), depicts humans transforming into fish, scorpions, and assorted mythological gods and creatures. *Sanctuary for Furies*, a substantial painting from a later period, portrays a periodic table of sorts that revisits many of the iconic figures from her lexicon.

The gallery will offer a limited supply of the beautifully illustrated 175-page book from IMMA's exhibition. The publication includes essays by Sean Kissane, Chief Curator of IMMA; Teresa Arcq, curator of Los Angeles County Museum of Art's *In Wonderland* (2012); Carrington scholar, Giulia Ingariao; renowned Surrealist scholar, Dawn Ades; and an interview between Carrington and art historian and curator, Hans-Ulrich Obrist.

On Saturday, April 5 at 2pm, Gallery Wendi Norris will also host Sean Kissane in conversation with author Rebecca Solnit and San Francisco based artist, Ana Teresa Fernández to discuss Carrington's imaginative world and her influence on important artists working today.

About the Artist

Leonora Carrington (Lancashire 1917 – Ciudad de México 2011) moved to London and Paris in 1936 at age 19. She became a central figure in the Surrealist movement exhibiting at the *International Exhibition of Surrealism* (1938) in Paris, alongside André Breton, Max Ernst, Man Ray, Wolfgang Paalen, Salvador Dali, and others. In 1940, following the internment of her lover Max Ernst, she suffered a mental breakdown after which she escaped from Lisbon to Mexico where she lived until her death in 2011 at the age of 94.

Carrington's artworks and writing span 70 years. British poet and collector of Surrealism, Edward James, was an early patron of her work and organized her first solo exhibition at the Pierre Matisse Gallery, New York in 1948. Carrington's works have exhibited at Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, New York, Pallant House in Chichester, UK, the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, and the Museum of Modern Art, Mexico City, among others. Her work is in the permanent collections of the Prado Museum, Madrid, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC, among others. In 1963, she completed the celebrated mural, *The Magical World of the Mayas* in Mexico's National Anthropological Museum. Carrington's large-scale bronze sculptures are featured prominently throughout Mexico City today. Carrington published several books, most notably *The Hearing Trumpet* and a memoir, *Down Below*.

About the Gallery

Gallery Wendi Norris presents a compelling contemporary and modern program with a strong emphasis on the global market. Since 2003, we have worked with over one hundred of the top museums around the world, placing works in their collections and collaborating on solo and group exhibitions. Though, by design, the range of works we show is diverse, a common thread runs through them all: a focus on the human ability to create psychological and spiritual meaning through form and content. Both the artworks and the artists themselves are emblematic of this aesthetic ambition and our trans-cultural nature. Through our expertise in the modern art world, with an unparalleled network in Surrealism, and through our considered selection of some of today's most dynamic artists, we support a range of private clients, museums, and not-for-profit art organizations.

For additional information and images please contact the gallery at (415) 346-7812 or email molly@gallerywendinorris.com.