

FIUMANO CLASE LAUNCH WITH INAUGURAL EXHIBITION WASSALL & LOHE



Andrés Clase & Francesca Fiumano (photo courtesy of Rory Lindsay)

On 7th November 2017, contemporary gallery Fiumano Projects will merge with Orion Contemporary, to become **Fiumano Clase**. In recent years Andrés Clase and Francesca Fiumano have collaborated on numerous exhibitions and projects. The success of these collaborations, pooling over thirty years of combined knowledge and experience, resulted in the decision to form Fiumano Clase. The two comment:

"After sixteen years as professionals in the art world, the forming of Fiumano Clase is our most exciting milestone yet. We see our role as continuing to encourage and support the very best ideas, techniques and practice, something which is crucial to the growth of our artists and the gallery's programme."

The gallery's debut exhibition - which will run from 7th November - 8th December 2017- showcases two of their most intriguing contemporary artists:

Nicole Wassall and **Herman Lohe**. British artist, Wassall, and Swedish artist, Lohe explore similar themes: the fragility and fallibility of man, our basic needs and our relationship to nature.

Lohe's work is *"really about conveying emotions. It can be a landscape painting or a video installation but it is about how to touch upon the eternal questions of joy, sorrow, life and death."* He has worked for approximately twenty years, exploring the tension between 'classical' painting and 'contemporary' video art. Similarly, Wassall describes her process as using *"an understanding of neuroscience to push open the swing doors of hunches and blur the dotted lines between senses and perception."* She sees neuroscience as particularly exciting in its potential to push the boundaries of contemporary art. As well as paintings on canvas and sculpture, the show will include multiple video works, demonstrating Fiumano Clase's commitment to supporting adventurous and varied practice. The collaboration of these artists for the launch exhibition simultaneously reflects the coming together of Fiumano Projects and Orion Contemporary.



Herman Lohe, Dies Irae

The new venture represents a union of both a professional and personal relationship, an exciting juncture in both Andrés and Francesca's lives. Each bring their individual qualities to the new partnership and both are equally energized and excited by the future plans for the growth and development of Fiumano Clase. Fiumano Clase will continue to build upon the longstanding relationships forged with both artists and collectors over the past 16 years.

Between them, Clase and Fiumano have worked with internationally renowned artists: Joakim Allgulander, Takefumi Hori, Sarah Lederman, Sam Burford, and Cara Mills, to name a few.



*Nicole Wassall, Geisha Girl in a Bottle,
print/sculpture*



Herman Lohe, Evening, 2016, oil on canvas, 80 x 60cm

Notes to editors:

Francesca Fiumano who graduated with a 1st class honours and masters in Art History, began her career in the arts, aged 21. Born into a family of antique dealers, it was a natural progression for her to open her own art gallery, which she did in 2001 as part of a partnership, moving on to take the reins of Fiumano Fine Art in 2007. Over the past sixteen years, Francesca has successfully exhibited across the UK and internationally including New York, Miami, Singapore, Hong Kong, Brussels, and Amsterdam. In 2013, the gallery was firmly established and continued to evolve, with Francesca becoming increasingly drawn towards more adventurous and 'difficult' works. Her enthusiasm for painting and sculpture remained, but she began to focus more on photography, installation, video and performance art. This led to the creation of Fiumano Projects, to run alongside Fiumano Fine Art. Fiumano Projects has introduced Francesca's collectors to exciting new artists. The central ethos of Fiumano Projects is to work collaboratively with artists, giving them the time, space and opportunity to develop their artistic practice unhindered by any commercial pressure. This is an ethos Francesca and Andrés are keen to echo in the launch of Fiumano Clase.

After his education in Sweden, Gibraltar, England and Italy, **Andrés Clase** joined the 19th Century European Paintings Department at Sotheby's Bond Street, London. Andrés, who founded Clase Fine Art in 2005, remains active in the field of Old Master and 19th Century Paintings, following a postgraduate study focused on Early Netherlandish and Dutch paintings. Having "discovered" Contemporary Art during his time at Sotheby's Andrés founded Orion Contemporary in 2008 to support and encourage emerging artists. Due to his Swedish origins, a natural focus has become Scandinavian artists but his outlook remains global rather than regionally focused.

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Fiumano Clase launch and press preview of Wassall & Lohe:

7 November 2017 (6.30-8.30pm)
Fiumano Clase
Unit 12
21 Wren Street
London WC1X 0HF