

Lila de Magalhaes
Spank the Sky
19/09 - 14/11

Lulu is pleased to present a solo exhibition of the Brazilian-Swiss, Los Angeles-based artist Lila de Magalhaes.

Known for working with embroidered textiles, ceramics, wool and video, Lila de Magalhaes' practice draws its unique pictorial language from a variety of sources. These include everything from her unconventional education at Waldorf schools in Switzerland to the illustrations of children's books, Japanese textile design, and European Symbolism, among other things. Playful, erotic, and optically opulent, her meticulously crafted works are populated by a host of ethereal, fluid bodies— human, animal, insect, fairy, angel and otherwise— which infernally frolic with the absorbing, richly detailed abandon of a Brueghel painting.

For her show at Lulu, entitled "Spank the Sky," the terrestrial and the celestial, loam and ether, worms and angels, and all that is in between are collapsed together and made to commingle in order to create her teeming universe. The simple soft underground dweller and winged, if imaginary creatures are all invited to conjointly cavort in this singular body of work, which consists entirely of embroidered works on dyed fabrics. In making this work, Magalhaes drew upon her own "hippie pagan sun and earth worship" childhood and the catholic faith of her grandparents. She was also inspired by the Metropolitan Cathedral in Mexico City, whose vast, majestic and symbolically heavenward striving is always contravened by its battle against gravity, as it sinks deeper and deeper into the earth (famously constructed on a land-filled lake, the Cathedral, like much of Mexico City's *Centro*, is literally sinking). This motion of simultaneously reaching up and descending downward is reflected in the exhibition's title "Spank the Sky", an impossible enterprise, which implies a variety of contradictory moods, such as wanting to corporeally punish the "above" for afflicting us with this earthly life while also invoking a kind of absurd kinkiness.

Lila de Magalhaes (b. 1986, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) lives and works in Los Angeles. She holds an MFA from the University of Southern California and a BA from Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow, UK. Recent solo and two-person exhibitions include Palace of Errors, Deli Gallery, New York; Cupid of Chaos, Ghebaly Gallery, LA; A Soft Flea, Mutt. R, LA; Remote Control, Abode, LA; Exhibition (10), SPF15, San Diego; and Motorfruit, Blood Gallery, NY. She has appeared as well in numerous group exhibitions, including Porch Gallery, Ojai; Company Gallery, NY; Freedman Fitzpatrick, LA; François Ghebaly, LA; ltd los angeles, LA; Steve Turner, LA, PANE Project, Milan; Julius Caesar, Chicago; and 356 Mission, LA.