

Luisa Rabbia
Death&Birth

February 9– April 7, 2018



Birth, 2017 (Detail)

Peter Blum Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new works by **Luisa Rabbia** entitled *Death&Birth* at 176 Grand Street, New York. This is the artist's third solo show with the gallery. There will be an opening reception on Friday, February 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. The exhibition runs through April 7, 2018.

Luisa Rabbia's practice is deeply rooted in the dialectic between inner and outer space, between the phenomenological and the symbolic. Rabbia's paintings operate on a macro and micro level, making reference to the touch and form of the human body, and depicting systems where everything is relational. Each work's foundation is a field of deep blue acrylic on canvas, upon which colored pencil marks are intricately layered to create a glowing palette of yellow, red and violet hues. The surfaces of her paintings are a complex geography where the organic and human merge.

This exhibition is the culmination of the trilogy *Love-Birth-Death*, of which *Love, 2016* is currently being exhibited in Rabbia's solo show at the Collezione Maramotti, in Reggio Emilia, Italy. *Love-Birth-Death* each measure 108"x202" (274 x 513 cm). In both *Birth* and *Death, 2017* the cycle of life is explored as a process of transformation rather than as an experience with a distinct beginning and end. A countless number of fingerprints cover the surface of each painting alluding to individuality as well as to layers of marks left by humanity over the course of time. Both paintings reflect on interdependence, autonomy, separation and dissolution.

Death&Birth will be accompanied by a series of three smaller paintings titled *LingamYoni*. The titles of these paintings refer to the lingam and yoni shapes in Hindu culture, which are stylized representations of the male and female reproductive organs, often placed together to denote transcendental potentiality or the origin of the universe. Rabbia's *LingamYoni* paintings represent three portraits depicting a belly button, like a stamp that both asserts individuality and links to the life that came before. These works merge genders, the surfaces are tactile, almost skin-like.

Luisa Rabbia was born in 1970 in Pinerolo (Torino, Italy) and lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. Solo exhibitions include: Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia, Italy (2017-2018), Peter Blum Gallery, NY (2014); Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston (2014); Peter Blum Gallery, NY (2012); Fundación PROA, Buenos Aires (2010); Fondazione Merz, Torino, Italy, (2009); Fondazione Querini Stampalia, Venezia, Italy (2009); Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston (2008). Group exhibitions include: Lismore Castle, Ireland (2016); Macy Art Gallery, Columbia University, NY (2016); Shirley Fiterman Art Center, NY (2015); La Maison Particulière, Brussels (2014); Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, Cambridge, MA (2013); Museo del Novecento, Milano, Italy (2012); the MAGA, Museo Arte Gallarate, Gallarate (VA), Italy (2010); MAXXI Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI secolo, Roma, Italy (2007); Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai, China (2006).

For additional information and photographic material please contact **David Blum** or **Vlad Smolkin** at art@peterblumgallery.com,
Gallery hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm; Saturday, 11am-6pm.