

Marlborough

PRESS RELEASE

For press inquiries please contact
Kristen Tivey at (212) 541-4900
or press@marlboroughgallery.com

MANOLO VALDÉS MONUMENTAL SCULPTURE AT PLACE VENDÔME SEPTEMBER 8 - OCTOBER 5, 2016

PARIS, FRANCE: The Directors of Marlborough Gallery are pleased to announce the public exhibition of six new monumental sculptures by the acclaimed Spanish artist Manolo Valdés at Place Vendôme in Paris. Located in the 1st arrondissement, the site will serve as an architectural setting for the group of sculptures by Valdés: female heads in aluminum, iron or marble, their unique ornamentations on unforgettable display. The new works, all of which were created for the exhibition at Place Vendôme, depict beautiful, stylized women in the artist's well-known signature style. Valdés, famous for depictions of women in all media, has created some of the largest and most expressive three-dimensional portraits of his storied career. One sculpture, *La Pamela*, wears a wide-brimmed hat and stands 16-feet tall. Another entitled *Los Aretes* is 19-feet long and depicts a woman with earrings that are as large as her head, all in strikingly bright blue iron. *La Mariposa* is the latest version of one of Valdés's favored thematic presences: the butterfly. The featureless female in this monumental sculpture sports an enormous butterfly on her forehead; it is a headdress that is a symbol not only of inner beauty but also creativity. The blue iron visage in *Mariposas* is adorned with dozens of massive butterflies in a sculpture that is as uplifting as it is profound. In addition to technical mastery, his sculptures exude deep passion for history and for humanity. His monumental women are familiar but distinct, imposing yet alluring. The works will remain on view through October 5th, 2016.



La Mariposa, 2016
Aluminum
5.2 x 6 x 2 meters

Manolo Valdés is one of the founding members of Equipo Crónica, which forged new artistic ground with social and political commentary on the Franco regime in Spain beginning in the early 1960s. In 1981, Valdés transitioned away from socio-political concerns and went on to develop a singular, highly regarded style in sculpture, painting and printmaking that was focused on aesthetics. The artist continues to draw inspiration from a vast pictorial tradition that includes Old Masters such as Velázquez and Goya as well as major artists such as Picasso and Matisse, which he uses as a pretext for his richly varied manner of working. It is fitting that these inspired new creations should be displayed in the historically important Place Vendôme. Conceived in 1702 as a monument to the military prowess of Louis XIV and his troops, an equestrian statue depicting the king on horseback was erected which was later destroyed during the French Revolution. Place Vendôme today has at its center Colonne Vendôme, a column modeled after the Trajan Column in Rome. The piece was installed by the French Emperor Napoleon to commemorate one of his most significant victories, The Battle of Austerlitz, in 1805. Of course, Place Vendôme is renowned not only for its top quality hotels including Hotel Ritz, dress designers and jewelry shops, but for a host of famous historical residents, a group that included Coco Chanel, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, and composer Frédéric Chopin, who died in 1849 at Number 12 Place Vendôme.

CONTINUED >

MARLBOROUGH GALLERY, INC.

40 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019
t. (212) 541-4900 / f. (212) 541-4948
www.marlboroughgallery.com

PRESS RELEASE

For press inquiries please contact
Kristen Tivey at (212) 541-4900
or press@marlboroughgallery.com

Manolo Valdés will present the newest residents of Place Vendôme—his sextet of magnificent female heads—for one month this fall. The occasion will introduce fresh artistry to the historic location, where architecture, monuments, and power have been celebrated for centuries.

Marlborough Gallery was founded in London in 1946 and is widely recognized as one of the world's leading modern and contemporary art dealers. Marlborough has an international presence with major galleries and offices in Madrid and Barcelona to complement its long established venues in New York and London. In addition to Manolo Valdés, Marlborough represents highly credentialed artists such as Magdalena Abakanowicz, Frank Auerbach, Alice Aycock, Santiago Calatrava, Dale Chihuly, Richard Estes, Antonio Lopez Garcia, Red Grooms, Tom Ottemess, Paula Rego, and the Estates of Claudio Bravo, Jacques Lipchitz, George Rickey, and R.B. Kitaj as well as a new generation of artists and programs at Marlborough Chelsea.

PRESS RELEASE

For press inquiries please contact
Kristen Tivey at (212) 541-4900
or press@marboroughgallery.com

MARLBOROUGH GALLERY, INC.

40 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019
t. (212) 541-4900 / f. (212) 541-4948
www.marboroughgallery.com