



Federico
URIBE

OPERA GALLERY
DUBAI

Opera Gallery is pleased to present the works of one of Latin America's most prominent artists: Federico Uribe. With a style reminding us of David Mach's work, Federico Uribe is an outstanding Colombian artist who takes ordinary items from everyday life which he then overlaps and combines. Where many artists get bored and move on to new projects, Uribe's sculptures demand tremendous amounts of time and patience.

Born in 1962, Federico Uribe first studied at the Universidad de Los Andes, in Bogotá, Colombia. He went to the State University of New York (1988-89) to earn a Master's degree in Fine Arts under the supervision of Luis Camnitzer. In 1990, he attended the Instituto Superior de Arte in Havana, Cuba. This marked the beginning of a journey that would span years of study and work in Cuba, Mexico, Russia, England and finally, Miami.

As mentioned above, Federico Uribe is a conceptual artist who uses the language of pop art and ordinary items taken from daily life, but always with a formal reference to the history and tradition of classical art. His works adopt a hybrid character that resists being labelled. Uribe began his artistic career as a painter working with the trompe l'œil technique, depicting anguished, religious scenes that explored the dichotomies between his devout Catholic upbringing and the concepts of pain, guilt and sexuality. Following a seven-year stay in Mexico, Uribe's work evolved to reveal an enhanced sense of confidence that took him to a new plane of artistic expression. He abandoned painting and started collecting items from street vendors: everyday objects in which he perceived more than just their utilitarian value, but also the aesthetic decisions that went into their creation. He bought baby bottle nipples in various colours, rubber gloves, dolls, paper forks and chairs. He transformed them into sculptural installations, sometimes turning an object upside down, thereby altering its original meaning and function. Tools morphed into palm trees; screws, coins, rubber lips and computer keys became women's torsos. Combining such objects to represent a specific theme explicitly reveals how the artist was influenced by the impressionists: by giving us one idea of what observers see. The result is an impression of what we see, the only difference being that instead of paint, what we see are physical objects colliding with one another.

Uribe has participated in international art fairs such as Art Basel, Miami Beach, Art Chicago, FIAC/Paris, ARCO/Madrid and Art Miami. His works have been displayed at the Chelsea Art Museum (New York), the Bass Museum of Arts (Miami), the Art Museum of the Americas (Washington, DC) and the Jacksonville Museum of Modern Arts (Jacksonville). His artistic creation is a labour-intensive, repetitive and almost compulsive process so vital to Uribe in producing new versions of how Mother Nature, the human body and the everyday items of today's society are perceived.

By remixing materials and ideas in such an obsessive and radical way, Uribe adds a touch of irony to both the techniques used and the meanings portrayed. He triggers the metamorphosis of everyday items into new objects with new meanings, appearances and textures: once we get past the essence of a piece, we are seduced and enticed to caress and physically experience the completed work.

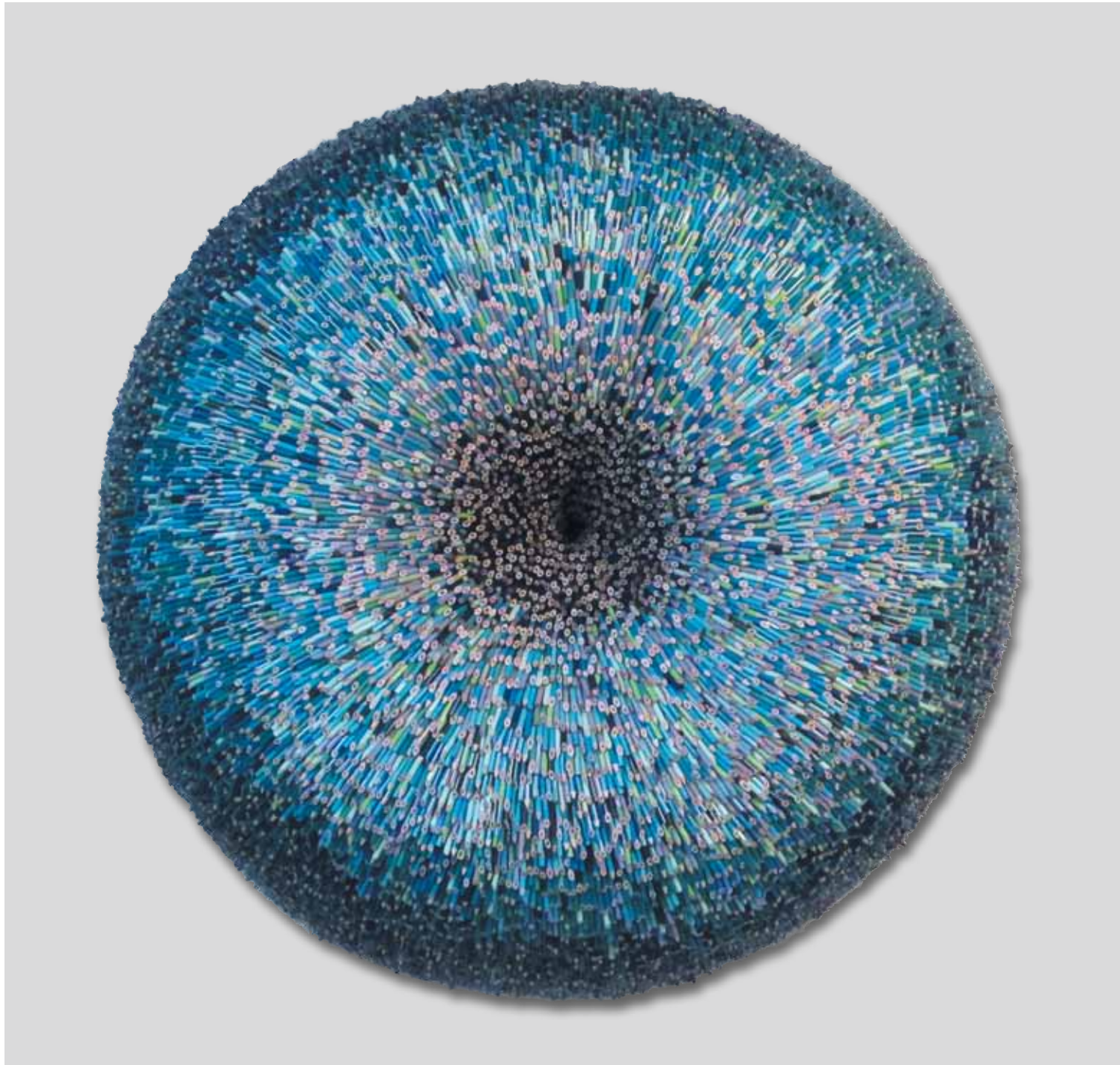
We hope this exhibition will enlighten art lovers and help them appreciate new, innovative ideas that develop one's artistic imagination. This is the artist's first exhibition in Dubai and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the Opera Gallery Group and owner Gilles Dyan to introduce you to the fantastic world of Federico Uribe.

Gilles Dyan
Founder and Chairman
Opera Gallery Group

OPERA GALLERY

Mariam Thani Hodge
General Manager
Opera Gallery Dubai





GEYSER, 2011
Pencils, unique piece - D: 122 cm - 48 in.



THE GOOD WAY, 2010
Long Playing and Compact Discs records, unique piece - D: 152,5 cm - 60 in.



MISSED TARGET, 2011
Bullets, unique piece - D: 122 cm - 48 in.



TRAFFIC, 2011

Bicycle tyres, unique piece - 175,5 x 213,5 cm - 69.1 x 84.1 in.



BLACK HORSE, 2010

Wood, unique piece - Life-size



BLACK EYE, 2011

Pencils, unique piece - D: 122 cm - 48 in.



THE EYES OF KNOWLEDGE, 2011

Books, unique piece - D: 91,5 cm - 36 in.



MOON, 2010
Forks, unique piece - D: 137 cm - 53.9 in.



PORTRAIT, 2011

Electric cables, unique piece - Base: 68,5 x 48 cm - 27 x 19 in.



PORTRAIT, 2011

Electric cables, unique piece - Base: 68,5 x 48 cm - 27 x 19 in.

Portrait, 2011
Electric cables, unique piece - Base: 68,5 x 48 cm - 27 x 19 in.





GREEN FLOWER, 2011

Brush handles, unique piece - H: 152,5 cm - 60 in.



UNTITLED, 2011

Brushes, unique piece - D: 183 cm - 72 in.



BROWN HORSE, 2010
Wood, unique piece - Life-size

DRAGONFLY, 2011
Wood, unique piece - H: 122 cm - 48 in.





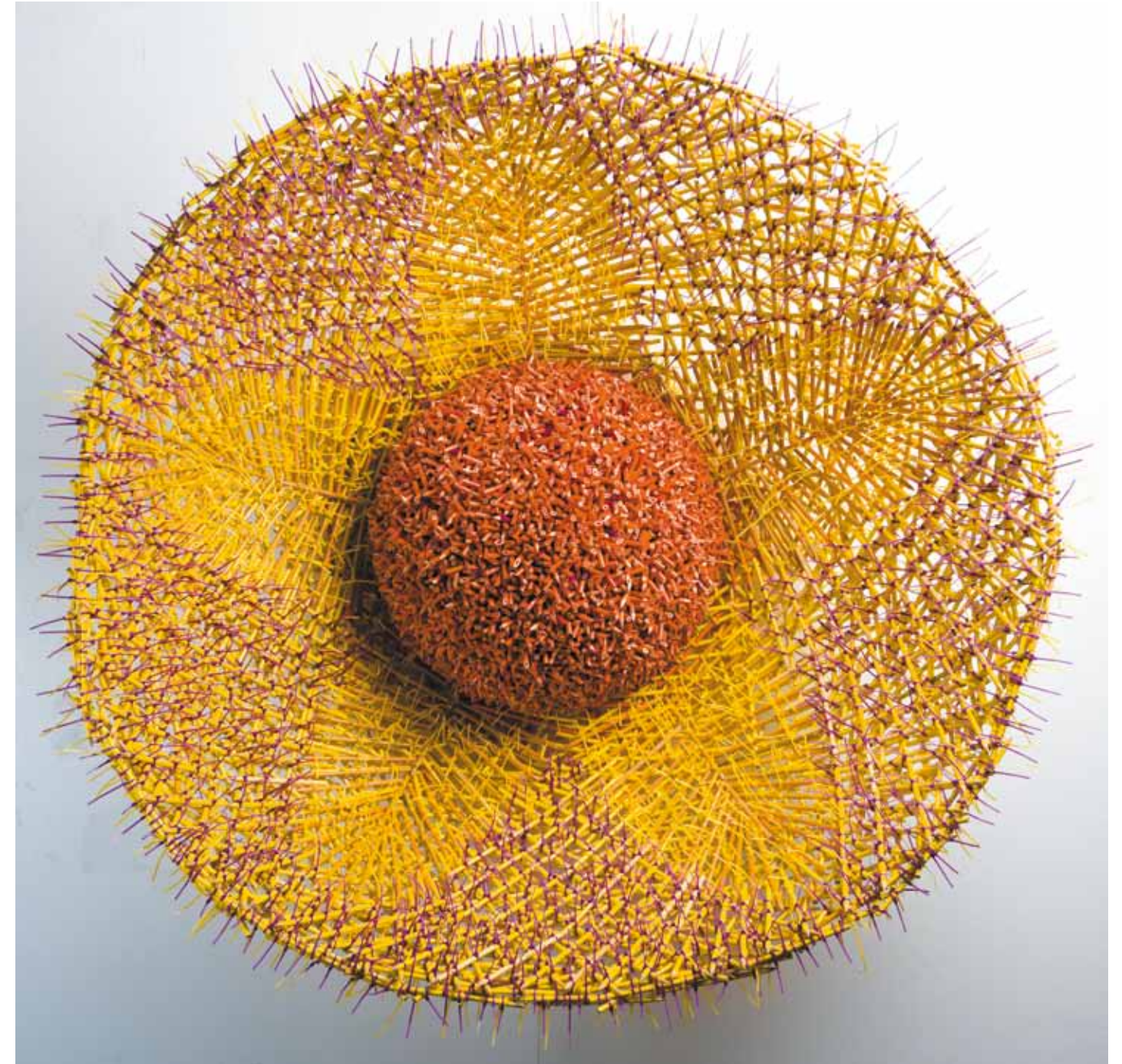
ACACIA, 2011

Wood, cardboard and book covers, unique piece - H: 152,5 cm - 60 in.





DEEP KNOWLEDGE, 2011
Books, unique piece - D: 122 cm - 48 in.



YELLOW FLOWER, 2011
Pencils, unique piece - D: 122 cm - 48 in.



RICH & POOR, 2011

Coins and bills, unique piece - D: 152,5 cm - 60 in.



CROP CIRCLE, 2011

Brushes, unique piece - D: 183 cm - 72 in.

FEDERICO URIBE

Education

1984-1987: University of Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia

1988-1989: State University of New York, New York, USA (under supervision of Luis Camnitzer)

1990: Institute of Arts, Havana, Cuba

Grants

1991: Ciudad de México, Mexico City, Mexico

1992: The Delfina Studios Trust, London, UK

2000: Art Center of South Florida, Miami, USA

2001: New forms Miami, Miami-Dade Department of Cultural Affairs, Miami, USA

Born in Bogotá, Colombia, in 1962, Federico Uribe lives and works in Miami. His works adopt a hybrid character that creates resistance to classification. Uribe is a conceptual artist resorting to the language of pop art through the use of objects of daily life, but with a formal reference to the history and tradition of classical art.

Uribe studied art at the University of Los Andes in Bogotá and in 1988 left for New York to study a Master of Fine Arts degree under the supervision of Luis Camnitzer. It was the beginning of a journey that included years of studies and work in Cuba, Mexico, Russia, England and finally Miami.

Initially his formation began as a painter with sensual and brooding canvases influenced by his dark reflections on the Catholic sense of pain, guilt and sexuality.

In 1996, abandoning his paintbrushes and attracted by the usually neglected beauty of simple objects in daily use, he began to observe them with care, collect them, set them side by side and combine them, so that they became unusual instruments of a new aesthetic, full of colour, irony and lively playfulness.

Uribe creates sculptures which are not sculpted but constructed and weaved, in all kinds of different ways, curious and unpredictable, repetitive and almost compulsive. They follow the classic canons of figurative and abstract art, but the result is absolutely unusual, whimsical, of enormous efficacy and communicability. When observed up close, his works reveal various kinds of interpretations; they invite us to touch them, to discover the detail and connection between one element and another. When viewed from further away, they offer volumes, forms, textures and colour. Distance, proximity and perception are key factors in the interaction between Uribe's work and its viewers.

Very important to Uribe, because it is a vital part of his creations, is the title he gives them and this reveals his deep connections to language and literature. "Most of my work is based on words", says Uribe, "I sometimes start with a name and look for my objects, sometimes the object makes me think of the word, and I exploit it to create a work". A happy and sometimes disconcerting association of materials and ideas allows Uribe to put the former to the service of the latter, or the other way round, leading to metamorphoses guided by clearly defined conceptual procedures, aiming at irony and benevolent provocation.

Humour, beauty and love are essentially what remain in the memory of the viewer of Uribe's work. For an artist who comes from a country that has been at war for almost half a century, this achievement is a way of reconciliation with life: "I have the hope", says Uribe, "that people who relate to my sculptures and live with them, will see the love I put into them. I want people to feel that I do this with a lot of careful attention and the purpose of beauty. I give my life to my work and I want people to see it".

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2011 *The World According to Federico Uribe*, Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, USA

2010 *Slowly but Surely*, Wolfsonian Museum, Miami Beach, USA
Risk, Art Miami, Praxis Gallery, Miami, USA
Risk, Art Palm Beach, Praxis Gallery, West Palm Beach, USA
Risk, Waterfront Park, Praxis Gallery, West Palm Beach, USA

2009 *Pencilism*, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, USA
Human Nature, Oratorio di San Rocco, Padova, Italy
Sculptures by Federico Uribe, FUMI Gallery, London, UK
Abstract-O, Praxis Gallery, Miami, USA

2008 *Animal Farm*, La Comunidad, Miami, USA

2007 *Human Nature*, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, USA

2006 *Human Nature*, PUMA, Miami, USA
Solo Show, SCOPE, Annina Nosei Gallery, Miami, USA

2005 *Second Nature*, Design Miami, Miami, USA
Pencil Paintings, Art Basel, Jacob Karpio Gallery, Miami Beach, USA

2004 *Federico Uribe*, Art Museum of the Americas, O.A.S., Washington DC, USA
Garden on Gardening Tools, Jacob Karpio Gallery, Palm Beach, USA
Federico Uribe, Joan Guaita Gallery, Palma de Mallorca, Spain

2003 *Comments on Paintings*, Annina Nosei Gallery, New York, USA
Garden on Tools & Screwed, Bass Museum of Arts, Miami Beach, USA

2002 *Screwed*, Annina Nosei Gallery, New York, USA
Cactus Garden, Angel Romero Gallery, Miami, USA

2001 *Torsos*, Annina Nosei Gallery, Chicago, USA
Cactus Garden, Futurshow, Bologna, Italy

2000 *Adam & Eve*, Annina Nosei Gallery, New York, USA
Silfides y Jardin de Cactus, Instituto Cultural Cabañas, Guadalajara, Mexico

1999 *Federico Uribe*, Adriana Schmidt Gallery, Cologne, Germany



GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2010** *Parallel Realities*, Now Contemporary Art, Miami, USA
- 2008** *Paintings on a Shoestring*, Praxis Gallery, Miami, USA
Paper Love, Luminaire & Christie's, Miami, USA
Latin American Flavour, Opera Gallery, Dubai, UAE
Ma Tse Lin & Federico Uribe, Opera Gallery, Monaco
- 2007** *Imprinted Bodies*, Transylvania University, Morgan Gallery, Lexington, USA
Art under Glass Summer, Macy's East, New York, USA
- 2006** *Poppy Love*, Luminaire & Christie's, Miami, USA
- 2005** *Contra Corriente*, Galería Lyle O. Reitzel, Saint-Domengue, Dominican Republic
- 2004** *Push Play: redefining Pop*, Jacksonville Museum of Modern Art, Jacksonville, USA
American Dream, The Ignatian Center for the Arts, Miami, USA

- 2003** *A Painting over a Sofa*, Polk Museum of Art, Lakeland, USA
Fresh, National Gallery of Cayman Islands, Cayman Islands
- 2002** *The Latin Century*, The Nassau County Museum of Art, New York, USA
The Medium is the Message, Art Center, South Florida Gallery, Miami, USA
- 2001** *A Painting over a Sofa*, Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, Miami, USA
Circos Globulos, The Babilonia Wilner Foundation, Berkeley, USA
- 2000** *Tercera Convocatoria Internacional*, Galería Luis Adelantado, Valencia, Spain
Summer Show, Annina Nosei Gallery, New York, USA

MUSEUM AND PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- Delphina Entrecanales, UK
Bacardi Foundation, Mexico City, Mexico
Bass Museum of Arts, Miami, USA

Installation *The World According to Federico Uribe*, Boca Raton Museum of Art, USA



OPERA GALLERY

www.operagallery.com

GATEVILLAGE BUILDING 3 • DUBAI INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE • PO BOX 506737 • DUBAI, UAE

(T) +971 (0)4 323 0909 • (F) +971 (0)4 323 0908 • DUBAI@OPERAGALLERY.COM

THE DUBAI MALL • 1ST FLOOR # FF109 • PO BOX 506737 • DUBAI, UAE

(T) +971 (0)4 330 8262 • (F) +971 (0)4 330 8266 • DUBAIMALL@OPERAGALLERY.COM