

LOIS LAMBERT GALLERY

at Bergamot Station
2525 Michigan Ave E3
Santa Monica, CA 90404

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Maria Guerrero
Assistant Director
maria@loislambertgallery.com
310.829.6990



"Black Square"
Goose and Dove Egg shells,
Acrylic and wood
11" x 5" X 3"



"Untitled"
Egg shells, wood
10.5" x 3.75" x 2.5"

LARISA SAFARYAN

The Art of the Egg

March 16th, 2019 – May 4th, 2019

Opening reception Saturday, March 16th, 6-9pm

SANTA MONICA, CA -- Lois Lambert Gallery presents an exhibit of egg shell sculptures by artist Larisa Safaryan. Safaryan creates small delicate works, stacking and balancing intricately carved ovoid shapes, defying our assumptions of egg shells as frail.

Her process begins by choosing the right egg shell for the piece. Safaryan uses egg shells from parrots, doves, goose, quail, emu and parrots. Each bird's egg has a different texture and thickness so that often the medium itself guides her. In other cases, she creates sketches to plan the surprising feats that these works execute.

The egg has long been a rich symbol. It is a source of life, it is nourishment. It's shell is a fragile container whose purpose is it's eventual destruction. Intact shells are precious, surfaces to be adorned. And while decorative egg carving is a traditional craft, Safaryan has taken her egg shells in directions that transcend decorative craft, transcend novelty, and explore the formal possibilities that the ovoid possess.

In this body of work, Larisa explores the idea of freedom to create without restriction as an Existential concept, "As we are all born at a certain time and place, we're also subject to the surrounding influences. However, while visualizing a new sculpture or paintings I rise above those influences to create something new. My creations reflect the result of my subjective interpretation of human feelings and experiences."

In several these sculptures, eggs interact with wooden bases, and contain and eject other eggs. In others, Safaryan uses sharp pins that piece through the shells to create a precarious bed of threatening pointed edges, on which smaller intact eggs rest. The sharp and incisive metallic pins create a jarring juxtaposition against the smooth, creamy organic shells.

In other works, her patterned perforations allow us to see through the shells, and to see inside the shells, while still appreciating their creamy exteriors. These works reveal the fundamental strength of the egg by



"Inseparable"
Goose egg shell, boxwood,
palm
9" x 6" x 4"

demonstrating how much of surface can in fact be removed while still maintaining the structure of the shell. However, our inherent knowledge of shells as imperilled imbues these sculptures with an emotional charge.

"My medium as well as my method resonates strongly with who I am as an individual, strong yet fragile, elaborate yet simple, demanding surgical precision yet having ample room and freedom for creativity."

Larisa Safaryan was born in Yerevan, Armenia. Safaryan has a Masters degree in Psychology and a Masters degree in Public Management. Yet Larisa's artistry is doubtlessly also inherited from her father, Nairi Safaryan, a wood sculptor known for his intricate wood carving techniques. Larisa explains that her household was the best art school she could have attended. She spent years accompanying her father to his studio, drawing alongside of him as he sculpted. Her father had an incredible collection of art history books which she spent hours reading.



"Spring Crwon"
Egg shells, acrylic paint, wood
8" x 7.25" x 2.5"

Larisa Safaryan has exhibited in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Chicago, Washington, D.C. and Yerevan, Armenia. She has won multiple awards for her artwork: the First Place Award, Glendale Art Association, Illustrious Artist Award in Calabasas, CA, and NICHE Awards Finalist in Philadelphia, PA. This is her first exhibition at the Lois Lambert Gallery.