



Pat Lasch: Journeys of the Heart

Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm Desert, The Galen

March 25 – October 15, 2017



This exhibition surveys 43 years of the work of Pat Lasch, and is the first major museum exhibition to focus on the artist's practice. Featuring the delicate cake and pastry sculptures for which the artist is best known alongside little-seen stitched canvas panels and an array of intimately-scaled bronze sculptures, Lasch's beautiful work is intensely biographical. Embedded with rich narratives culled from the artist's personal journey, Lasch's work is rooted in spirituality, and always weighted with the pains and joys of heartbreak, age, and adventure. The exhibition will also feature a stunning display of life-size dresses marking significant moments in a woman's life—from christening dress and wedding gown to shroud — all made in the artist's signature intricate piped-paint lace.

Lasch emerged in the 1970s as a pioneering artist who was one of the first members of A.I.R., an important women's gallery collective in New York City. This exhibition will situate the artist's practice within several art historical and cultural contexts. Lasch thrived in New York's burgeoning art scene, and was immersed in second-wave feminism amidst waning currents in Pop art and minimalist practice. Throughout this, Lasch has maintained a distinct artistic vision closely tied to her heart and her experiences, whether as the daughter of a baker, as a lover, mother, and wife, and as an artist who has always divided time between the bustling energy of a city and the quietude of the country. The immaculately

decorated cakes studded with pins, the sinister black-toned icing of pastry sculptures, the figurative bronzes with dark stories to tell, and the lavish painted dresses all compose a wondrous world filled with beauty, light, and darkness. Inspired by true events, her art at times seems more imagined than real, yet Lasch's works are all anchored in the sturdy materials and hand-worked processes that the artist has mastered over her lifetime.

Lasch was elected a National Academician in 1995, and her work is represented in such museum collections as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art, New York. She is the recipient of grants from the Pollock Krasner Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council for the Arts, the Rome Prize, and Lilly and Yaddo Fellowships. She was most recently a recipient of a grant from the Sam and Adele Golden Foundation. Lasch was a Professor of Fine Arts at the University of Massachusetts until 2009, and currently lives and works in New York and Rancho Mirage, California.

A fully-illustrated color catalogue will accompany the exhibition. Limited edition copies will also be available.

This exhibition is organized by Palm Springs Art Museum and supported by the Clinton Hill & Allan Tran Foundation.

Image credit: Pat Lasch, *Wedding Tower*, 1978, wood, acrylic, paper, needles and metallic thread, gift of Roger W. Barrett.