

Victoria Miro Gallery

Press Release

Adriana Varejão • Saunas

14 September to 9 October 2004

The Victoria Miro Gallery is delighted to announce an exhibition of new work by Adriana Varejão. Continuing her recent series entitled *Saunas*, Varejão will present four major paintings in her second solo exhibition in London.

In the *Sauna* paintings, Varejão explores questions inherent to painting and geometry, with a sensitive use of light and shade to represent simple, contemporary tiled interiors that the artist describes as “psychological ambience”. Fine colour gradations enliven the apparent chromatic uniformity of these paintings whilst the grids that constitute these works recall their use in modernist aesthetics. Two paintings from this exhibition *The Seducer*, 2004 and *The Diva*, 2004 will be included in Varejão’s solo exhibition at the *Fondation Cartier pour l’art contemporain* in February 2005.

Varejão’s earlier work dealt with representation, parody and the Baroque idea of illusion and of theatre. Works from her *Jerked Beef Ruin* series, for instance, are like contemporary ruins, paintings that depict fragments of wall and rubble made of flesh and tiles. In these recent works the tiles have become simple, unadorned, abstract and minimalist. Starting from compositions that are virtually created, Varejão expands her themes in subtle but no less complex directions whilst upholding the visual poetics and conceptual impulses of her earlier works.

Born in 1964 in Rio de Janeiro, where she lives and works, Adriana Varejão is one of Brazil’s leading contemporary artists. Varejão has solo exhibitions in 2005 at the *Fondation Cartier*, Paris and *Centro Cultural de Belém*, Portugal. She is currently included in *The Fifth International Site Santa Fe Biennial*, until January 2005. Recent exhibitions include *History and the Americas*, *Musée d’Art Contemporain*, Montréal, May-Sept 2004, *Body Nostalgia*, *The National Museum of Modern Art*, Tokyo which then toured to *Kyoto Museum of Modern Art*. Her work was recently shown in *Brazil: Body and Soul* at the Guggenheim Museum in New York as well as in the MoMAQNS exhibition *Tempo*, where she filled an entire room with the wall-based installation, *Azulejões (Big Blue Tiles)*. Varejão has exhibited widely internationally, including the *Biennale of Sydney*, the *Venice Biennale*, and the *São Paulo Biennial* as well as solo exhibitions at *Bildmuseet*, Umeå, Sweden and the *Instituto de Arte Contemporanea*, Lisbon.

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