

Virginia Jaramillo: *East of the Sun, West of the Moon*

May 13 – June 24, 2023
 1201 South La Brea Avenue
 Los Angeles



Virginia Jaramillo, *To Touch the Earth*, 2023 © Virginia Jaramillo, courtesy Pace Gallery

New York – Pace is pleased to present an exhibition of work by Virginia Jaramillo at its Los Angeles gallery from May 13 to June 24. This will be the artist’s first show with Pace since she joined the gallery’s program in 2022 and her first-ever solo exhibition in LA. Titled *East of the Sun, West of the Moon*, the presentation will spotlight nine new paintings—all deeply related to Jaramillo’s past bodies of work—in which the artist examines ancient mythologies and civilizations.

Throughout her six-decade career, Jaramillo has explored the visual and imaginative possibilities of geometric abstraction. The artist’s work is guided by her deeply philosophical approach to art making, and her methodological process often involves meditations on history, science fiction, scientific theory, and other subjects. She transforms exacting sketches into transcendent paintings, using a language of abstraction to explore relationships between physical, temporal, and spiritual phenomena.

Born in El Paso, Texas in 1939, Jaramillo, a Mexican American artist, has been cultivating her practice since her childhood in Los Angeles, where she attended Manual Arts High School—artists Jackson Pollock and Philip Guston are also alumni of that institution—and studied at the Otis Art Institute from 1958 to 1961. Jaramillo’s visits to designer Charles Eames’s studio during her high school years would remain an enduring source of inspiration for her own work throughout her career. Among the earliest milestones of her career was her inclusion in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art’s *Annual* exhibition series in 1959 and 1961. Influenced by abstract expressionist paintings and modernist design, Jaramillo would continue to pursue explorations of form and function over the course of her career.

Jaramillo first garnered wide acclaim for her curvilinear paintings, her most famous body of work, which she began creating in the late 1960s following her move from Los Angeles to New York—after a year living in Paris—and continued producing into the 1970s. For these and later works, the artist drew inspiration from her high school visits to designer Charles Eames’s studio as well as the Japanese concept of *Ma*, which centers on the resonance and significance of negative space. Her curvilinear works were included in the storied 1971 *De Luxe Show* in Houston, which was among the first racially integrated exhibitions in the United States—Jaramillo was the only woman included in that show—and the 1972 *Whitney Annual* at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. Notably, the Whitney recently added a 1967 curvilinear painting by Jaramillo to its permanent collection.

The new paintings in Jaramillo's upcoming exhibition with Pace in LA build on her longstanding experimentations with materiality through various media, textures, pigments, and technical processes. These works also reflect her continued investigations into the sensorial effects of color and line.

With *East of the Sun / Deep Field* (2022)—one of the works included in the upcoming show in LA—Jaramillo elaborates on the visual language of her iconic curvilinear paintings, which feature elegantly contoured lines that diverge and intersect against vast, monochromatic color fields. In this painting, the artist situates her linear abstractions amid a deep blue background rich in textural nuance.

Also included in the exhibition is the large-scale work *To Touch the Earth* (2023), in which linear forms traverse three distinct fields rendered in metallic hues. Here, Jaramillo's abstractions coalesce in a dynamic, symmetrical composition. The painting *Meta* (2023) is a study in balance and structure, with two delicate lines floating parallel to one another amid four square elements.

During the run of Jaramillo's solo show at Pace in LA, the artist will open her first major museum retrospective at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City, on view from June 1 to August 26. Titled *Principle of Equivalence*, this exhibition will bring together 73 paintings and handmade paper works created by the artist over the course of nearly 70 years. Yale University Press will publish a full-color catalogue in conjunction with the retrospective.

Virginia Jaramillo (b. 1939, El Paso, Texas) is known for her meditative abstract paintings engaged with a wide range of subjects, including science fiction, history, and physiology. Over the course of her six-decade career, Jaramillo has explored space, depth, and materiality in her canvases, forging a unique visual language through her experimentations with various media, textures, pigments, and technical processes. The artist studied at the Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles from 1958 to 1961. She is the recipient of numerous awards and grants, including the 2020 Anonymous Was A Woman Award. Her work can be found in many public collections, including the Museo Rufino Tamayo, Mexico City; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Brooklyn Museum, New York; the Baltimore Museum of Art; the Crystal Bridges Museum of Art, Bentonville, Arkansas; the Menil Collection, Houston; the Mexican Museum, San Francisco; the Norton Simon Museum, Pasadena, California; and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. Jaramillo lives and works in New York.

Pace is a leading international art gallery representing some of the most influential contemporary artists and estates from the past century, holding decades-long relationships with Alexander Calder, Jean Dubuffet, Barbara Hepworth, Agnes Martin, Louise Nevelson, and Mark Rothko. Pace enjoys a unique U.S. heritage spanning East and West coasts through its early support of artists central to the Abstract Expressionist and Light and Space movements.

Since its founding by Arne Glimcher in 1960, Pace has developed a distinguished legacy as an artist-first gallery that mounts seminal historical and contemporary exhibitions. Under the current leadership of CEO Marc Glimcher, Pace continues to support its artists and share their visionary work with audiences worldwide by remaining at the forefront of innovation. Now in its seventh decade, the gallery advances its mission through a robust global program—comprising exhibitions, artist projects, public installations, institutional collaborations, performances, and interdisciplinary projects. Pace has a legacy in art bookmaking and has published over five hundred titles in close collaboration with artists, with a focus on original scholarship and on introducing new voices to the art historical canon.

The gallery has also spearheaded explorations into the intersection of art and technology through its new business models, exhibition interpretation tools, and representation of artists cultivating advanced studio practices. As part of its commitment to technologically engaged artists within and beyond its program, Pace launched a hub for its web3 activity, Pace Verso, in November 2021.

Today, Pace has nine locations worldwide, including a European foothold in London and Geneva, and two galleries in New York—its headquarters at 540 West 25th Street, which welcomed almost 120,000 visitors and programmed 20 shows in its first six months, and an adjacent 8,000 sq. ft. exhibition space at 510 West 25th Street. Pace's long and pioneering history in California includes a gallery in Palo Alto, which operated from 2016 to 2022. Pace's engagement



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with Silicon Valley's technology industry has had a lasting impact on the gallery at a global level, accelerating its initiatives connecting art and technology as well as its work with experiential artists. Pace consolidated its West Coast activity through its flagship in Los Angeles, which opened in 2022. Pace was one of the first international galleries to establish outposts in Asia, where it operates permanent gallery spaces in Hong Kong and Seoul, as well as an office and viewing room in Beijing. Pace's satellite exhibition spaces in East Hampton and Palm Beach present continued programming on a seasonal basis.

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