

# GALERIE SAMUEL LALLOUZ

PRESS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

## LEIKO IKEMURA. ZARATHOUSTRA.

September 4 to October 30, 2014

Vernissage: October 4, 5 to 8 pm

MONTREAL July 19 - Galerie Samuel Lallouz is proud to present internationally acclaimed Berlin-based Japanese artist LEIKO IKEMURA in a solo show ZARATHOUSTRA from September 4 to October 30, 2014. The artist will be present at the vernissage September 4, from 5 to 8 p.m. ALL ARE WELCOME.

“The three metamorphoses of the spirit will I now describe: how the spirit becomes a camel, the camel then a lion and the lion at last a child.” This is one of the more difficult passages of *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Nietzsche’s poetic work of philosophy and social criticism from the 1880s. LEIKO IKEMURA offers us a twenty-first century visual counterpart to Nietzsche’s lyricism.

The possible connection between the nineteenth century philosopher and the contemporary artist constitutes the intrigue of this show. Nietzsche's camel bears the burden of tradition through the desert of time, the lion roars his objection to the weight and destroys it, but only the child, that symbol of innocence, renewal and playfulness, can create something new. LEIKO IKEMURA's own trajectory suggests something similar: a Japanese upbringing followed by an early artistic career in Switzerland and Germany, leading to her present prominence on the world's artistic stage. There may be a coincidence here; certainly post-war Germany combined the camel's burden of the past, the lion's roaring nihilism and the child's "will to power" to create a future based on new values.

Where Nietzsche used words to roar against Manichean thinking of his time, LEIKO IKEMURA uses canvas and clay to create graceful, poetic, feminine silhouettes that take us somewhere beyond our contemporary, conventional reference points. At first glance, the pastel colours and mythical female figures suggest an unreal world of dream and enchantment but each of IKEMURA's works contains a poignant gravity to remind us that the destiny of Nietzsche's *Übermensch* child is not in some dream world but very much in the here and now, a present burdened by the past even as the to-be-created future unfolds.

Galerie Samuel Lallouz invites you to discover this sensual and poetic call to a dream-like other world nonetheless anchored in the present. **THUS SPEAKS LEIKO IKEMURA ...**

LEIKO IKEMURA lives in Berlin and Cologne and is Professor of painting at Berlin University of the Arts. Her works are in museums, galleries and private collections around the world. Numerous catalogues, articles and prizes document her work and the esteem in which it is held.

At Galerie Samuel Lallouz. 1455 Sherbrooke Ouest, Montreal, until 30 October, 2014.