



## PRESS RELEASE

D CONTEMPORARY GALLERY  
23 GRAFTON STREET  
LONDON, W1S 4EY

CONTEMPORARY

Sara Pope  
*Symmetria*

EXHIBITION DATES | 24th January - 9th February  
PRIVATE VIEW | 23rd January 6:30 - 9pm  
RSVP - sok@strategyinternational.co.uk

### About the Exhibition

*What makes one image of someone appear more attractive than another? There are several factors at play, among them is the fact that we're highly attuned to respond to pattern, proportion and symmetry, as found in nature and reflected in art and design. I'm interested in exploring how this informs our notion of beauty*

Contemporary artist Sara Pope is known for her bold, seductive paintings of voluptuous lips. Taking inspiration from a successful career in the fashion industry (as a shoe designer for brands such as Paul Smith), and also her work in magazines as a designer and art director, Sara aims to capture the glamour and seductive power conveyed by the lips and mouth. Interested in questions of beauty, communication, and the rise of image perfectionism, Sara uses the perspective of her commercial experience to explore these themes.

The starting point is a makeup brush and a lipstick. She paints the model's lips, then, using tricks and techniques of makeup and lighting, she begins the process of creating the perfect lips. She asks the model, to express different emotions which she captures photographically. Using the shots as inspiration she begins the artwork. The painting process involves several layers of thin oil-diluted paint being overlaid, blending and smoothing the colours extensively at every stage, sometimes also mixing lipstick into the paint. Emulating the stylistic slickness of advertising, the result is glossy, perfect and irresistible.

### About Symmetria

Exploring notions of beauty and sensuality, Sara's work focuses on and investigates the combination of qualities that are intrinsically pleasing to the aesthetic senses. Making use of high gloss, light reflection, and neon light this body of work includes not only her trademark lips but also a new strand of investigation in the form of her 'Symmetry' portraits.

*The reason for my choice of the name Symmetria is a bit mathematical. Through years of working in fashion and media, I'm interested in image, and the appeal of an image. What makes one image of someone appear more attractive than another? There are several factors at play, among them is the fact that we're highly attuned to respond to pattern, proportion and symmetry, as found in nature and reflected in art and design. I'm interested in exploring how this informs our notion of beauty.*

*I will be exhibiting my trademark lip works through a range of media, including a new neon piece, diamond dust, gold leaf and Swarovski crystals. I will also be exhibiting a new series of portraits. Painted using the same technique as my lip paintings, they are slick, glossy and irresistible!*



*Electric*  
Oil on Board with Neon Light



*So Hot Right Now*  
Oil on Board with Neon Light



*Red Carpet Red*  
Oil on gesso covered wood panel,  
24ct gold leaf background



Unique exhibition space in Mayfair  
Opening Times: Monday - Friday 11am - 6pm  
Saturday: 11am - 5pm

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