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Jane Irish

Sông Hương: Withdrawing Room

April 5 – May 10, 2013

Artist's reception:
Friday, April 5, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Gallery hours:
Tues – Sat: 10 am – 6 pm



Jane Irish, *Yellow Room*, 2012, egg tempera on linen, 48 x 54 inches

Locks Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of new work by Jane Irish. *Sông Hương: Withdrawing Room* will be on view April 5th through May 10th, 2013. There will be a reception for the artist on Friday, April 5th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

Jane Irish's latest work explores the exoticism and escapism of 18th-century French homes, drawing inspiration from their taste for Orientalist motifs. Named after a Vietnamese river ("Perfume River" in English) and a reference to the drawing rooms of the Rococo era, Irish's exhibition captures the contradictory power of the style—its ability to both inspire dreams of foreign shores and make home all the more sophisticated.

A triptych of towering canvases replicates the large-scale murals and tapestries favored by the French bourgeoisie, capturing their affinity for vaulted skies and pastel colors, while infusing them with Irish's own loose brushstrokes and personal familiarity with the contemporary Vietnamese landscape. A manipulator of framing and angles, her depictions of French interiors capture these murals' capacity to blur the distinctions between rooms and windows, inside and outside. In Irish's hands, the illusion becomes both visual and thematic, provoking nostalgia for an idyllic place that never was.

Jane Irish has traveled extensively throughout France and Vietnam, and her work has long engaged with the fraught and interwoven history the two nations share. Painting on medi-

[continued on reverse]

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ums ranging from Tyvek to porcelain, Irish is a longtime advocate for Vietnam War veterans, frequently incorporating their poetry and protest imagery into her art. Acutely aware of the ghosts of history, and the inexorable ties between war and peace, Irish creates harmonies of opulence and outrage.

Jane Irish received her MFA from Queens College, CUNY, and has exhibited in New York and Philadelphia since 1983. Irish was included in the 2009 exhibition *Dirt on Delight*, which was organized by the Institute for Contemporary Art, PA and traveled to the Walker Art Center, MN. She has also had a solo exhibition at the Morris Gallery, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, PA and has been included in exhibits at the Delaware Center for Contemporary Art, DE; Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, LA; Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH; the Utah Museum of Fine Arts, UT; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; and the Baltimore Museum of Art, MD. Most recently, Irish was a 2011 recipient of a Pew Fellowship, and she was a 2009 recipient of a Painters and Sculptors Grant from the Joan Mitchell Foundation. This is Irish's 4th solo exhibition at Locks Gallery.

Locks Gallery is located at 600 Washington Square South in Philadelphia, PA. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 6pm. For additional information, please contact Locks Gallery at 215-629-1000, fax 215-629-3868, or email info@locksgallery.com.

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