

## For immediate release and listing:

### Sylvia Ji

*Las Adelitas*

July 10–August 7, 2010

Opening reception, Gallery I: Saturday, July 10, 6–9 PM

New York, NY June 15, 2010 -- Joshua Liner Gallery is pleased to present *Las Adelitas*, an exhibition of new paintings by Los Angeles based artist Sylvia Ji. This is Ji's first solo show with the gallery.

Like the exhibition title suggests, Ji's fifteen, acrylic-on-panel portraits depict fierce and feminine *soldaderas*, the spiritual sisters of women who assisted and fought alongside troops in the Mexican Revolution and were immortalized in folksong with the *corrido* "La Adelita." Though not referencing soldiers, per se, Ji's figures are warriors of sexual and moral ambiguity. With haunting and alluring beauty, they brim over melodramatically with a mix of sexual provocation and danger, as well as the threat of decay implicit in their skeletal markings. The artist has said that her paintings are symbolic reflections of herself or people she knows, but they are also totem images for a kind of universal revolutionary attitude of any age, gender, or cause.

What distinguishes *Las Adelitas* are the paintings' uneasy admixture of the traditional and the contemporary. This ambiguous context for the images is echoed in the figures' clothing and face markings, which are at once tattoo- and mask-like. The costumes—including ponchos and embroidered cloth—suggest the indigenous apparel of Michoacán, Puebla, and other areas of Mexico that is still popular in many adapted forms today. Ji's paintings, like *Red Quechquemits* and *Red Serape*, reference specific articles of clothing, but more importantly, evoke muertos of traditional Mexican culture.

Occurring annually at the beginning of November, *Los Días de los Muertos* are feast days acknowledging the dearly departed through fiestas for the dead. Celebrated with personalized altars, or *ofrendas*, and held directly on graves in cemeteries, these special occasions are populated with colorful skulls and skeletons, dressed up and wearing hats. Though these "days of the dead" are considered happy occasions, Ji's elegant *muertos* carry an edge of menace in their ambiguity. This is perhaps why *muertos* were an appealing symbol for artist and political satirist J. G. Posada and other Mexican Revolutionaries, as well as contemporary provocateurs like Ji.

Born in 1982 in San Francisco, Sylvia Ji received a BFA from the Academy of Art University; she currently lives and works in Southern California. Selected solo exhibitions include: *Nectar*, Stolen Space Gallery, London (2009); *Sylvia Ji*, White Walls Gallery, San Francisco (2008); and *Love, Beauty, Perversion*, Romeo 5, San Francisco (2006). Selected group exhibitions include: *In the Land of Retinal Delights: The Juxtapoz Factor*, Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, CA (2008); *Behind Bedroom Doors*, Thinkspace Gallery, Los Angeles (2007); *Tortured Souls*, The Scion Dashboard, San Francisco (2006); and *Young Guns at the Sundance Film Festival*, Chester's Blacksmith Shop, Park City, UT (2006).

Joshua Liner Gallery, located in New York City's Chelsea Arts district, presents an exciting roster of established and emerging artists from North America, Asia, and Europe.

Also on view, in Gallery II: Travis Louie, *Curious Myths*, July 10–August 7.

For more information, please visit [www.joshualinergallery.com](http://www.joshualinergallery.com), or contact Tim Strazza at 212.244.7415 or [tim@joshualinergallery.com](mailto:tim@joshualinergallery.com).



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1. *Red Quechquemits* Acrylic on wood panel 24 x 24 in. 2010

2. *Red Serape* Acrylic and gold leaf on wood panel 40 x 30 in. 2010

3. *Stripes* Acrylic on wood panel 36 x 24 in. 2010