

OPEN MIND ART SPACE

11631 Santa Monica Blvd. | Los Angeles, CA 90025
424.273.5088 | info@openmindartspace.com | www.openmindartspace.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Janus

A solo exhibition of works by Leah Pantéa
January 14, 2017 - February 10, 2017

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 14th, 2017, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

(LOS ANGELES, CA) - **Open Mind Art Space** is pleased to present **Janus**, a solo exhibition featuring works by San Diego based artist Leah Pantéa. An opening reception will be held for the artist on Saturday, January 14th from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM. The exhibition will be on view from Saturday, January 14th through Friday, February 10th, 2017.



(án títis XIV) by Leah Pantéa, 2016, oil on paper, 36" x 48"

Janus is a collection of contemporary oil paintings on paper by artist Leah Pantéa, which explores the connection between mystery, trust and faith. The series is named after the ancient double-headed Roman god of transitions, passages, beginnings and endings. It is also inspired by psychiatrist Albert Rothenberg's theory called the Janusian Process: a creative cognitive process in which creative conceptualization is derived from opposite or antithetical thoughts simultaneously. In philosophical terms, there is a need for the opposing to exist, similar to the principle of Yin and Yang in Chinese philosophy.

Pantéa references this push and pull in each of her paintings, by first creating an abstract landscape in full intricate detail and color, and finishing by applying a delicate layer of white paint over the elaborate work, ultimately pushing the landscape back into the void from which it came. The resulting work looks like a scene from a dream, in which a cloudy white mist appears to be moving across dark geometric structures.

The viewer is then left with only a mysterious glimpse into the obscure world the artist had formed beneath the painted veil. Although the veil initially seems to create space between the viewer from the unknown, it is instead intended to begin a conversation - What does it take to trust stories over our immediate perceptions?

Leah Pantéa was born in Littleton, Colorado and was raised into a family of technical minds. Despite these initial influences, Leah gravitated towards the arts. Although initially drawn to figurative art, Leah evolved to find her passion in expressive abstract paintings. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts from Central Washington University, where she studied under the accomplished painter Maya Chachava. This past summer, she completed a 3-month artist residency in Iceland. Currently, Leah lives and works in sunny San Diego, California. <http://llpfineart.com>