

# Liliana Porter

## *The Riddle and Other Circumstances*

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October 12th - December 21st, 2019

Opening  
Saturday, October 12th — 6 - 9 pm



Liliana Porter, *Time Machine (Man with Pink Shirt)*, 2019

mor charpentier is pleased to present a selection of Liliana Porter's (Buenos Aires, 1941) recent works in her second solo show at the gallery. The protagonists of these pieces—including works on canvas, small and large installations—are objects, figurines, books or tiny boats, arranged to create metaphorical situations that question the idea of representation, the concept of time, and other common riddles set out throughout existence.

One of the most cited Argentinean artists in contemporary culture, **Liliana Porter** has long questioned the boundary between reality and its representation. She is a master at distilling life and art to simple profundities through humorous juxtapositions of incongruous objects. Over the years, Porter has amassed a prodigious and eccentric collection of figurines, knickknacks, toys, and souvenirs from her global travels. These kitschy objects appear regularly in her work, inviting political, philosophical, and existential interpretation through their arrangement in unexpected situations.

One of the most distinctive features in Porter's work is the playful problematisation of scale. A clever use of empty space, that determine a miniature dimension

for the objects, has been recurrent in her practice since the 1970s, creating a "poetic of the small". This dislocation of scale accentuates the question of representation versus reality, and can be interpreted as a certain form of noncompliance: breaking up the visual conventions is a mean to confound the ordinary hierarchies, rules and categories. The notion of the carnival—as a mingle of the sacred and the profane, the high and the low, the majestic and the trivial—has been evoked to describe Liliana Porter's pieces, and why they feel so attractive, cathartic and liberating. Humor can become, indeed, an emancipating element as it is able to blur the border in between the artist and the spectator.

Another main aspect in Liliana Porter's work is the relation with popular culture. Kitsch has become a constant, alluding to a kind of simulated sadness or nostalgia. She is able to fill the most common objects with emotion and empathy, and through this process, they become tools for a psychological exploration of the world and human emotions. As Porter points out, the objects that she chooses "already come loaded with their plots", and she finds the way to reveal that inner narrative.

## Upper Floor

***The Task (Black Piano)*, 2016**

Painted wooden piano and figurine  
8,9 x 14 x 19 cm (3,5 x 5,5 x 7,5 in)  
Unique piece

***Untitled (with Gardener)*, 2019**

Installation including broken violin, mug, broken plate,  
puzzle, cards, various toys and figurines, glitter.  
Variable dimensions  
Unique piece

***Untitled with Blue Wave*, 2019**

Acrylic and assemblage on canvas (6 panels)  
122 x 426,7 cm / 48 x 168 in  
Unique piece

***The Task (Blue Wave)*, 2019**

Acrylic and assemblage on canvas  
82,5 x 165,1 x 22,9 cm (32,5 x 65 x 9 in)  
Unique piece

***Him (with Black Drips II)*, 2019**

Acrylic and bronze figurine on wooden base  
6 x 2 x 2 cm / 2.25 x 0,75 x 0,75 in  
Unique piece

## Lower Ground

***The Painter*, 2019**

Painting installation with figurine and custom  
wooden support  
Variable dimensions  
Unique piece

***Untitled with Light II*, 2016**

Acrylic and assemblage on 2 canvases  
121,9 x 271,8 cm (48 x 107 in)  
Unique piece

***Man Painting a Chair*, 2019**

Painted chair and figurine  
Variable dimensions  
Unique piece

***Traveler with Two Suitcases*, 2019**

Porcelain mug, metal figurine and graphite lines  
on wooden white shelf  
15,2 x 101,6 x 21,6 cm (6 x 40 x 8,5 in)  
Unique piece

***Weaver (Copper Fabric)*, 2019**

Copper mesh, resin figurine and white wooden shelf  
20,3 x 111,8 x 25,4 cm (8 x 44 x 10 in)  
Unique piece

***Black Drips Sitting Woman*, 2019**

Acrylic and metal figurine on canvas  
63,5 x 45,7 x 3,8 cm (25 x 18 x 1,5 in)  
Unique piece

***Time Machine (Man with Pink Shirt)*, 2019**

Clock machine and figurine  
24,1 x 15,9 x 11,4 cm (9,5 x 6,25 x 4,25 in)  
Unique piece

***Situation I*, 2019**

Acrylic and assemblage on canvas  
25,4 x 21 x 5,7 cm (10 x 8,25 x 3,25 in)  
Unique piece

***Situation II*, 2019**

Acrylic and assemblage on canvas  
25,4 x 21 x 5,7 cm (10 x 8,25 x 3,25 in)  
Unique piece

***To Hold the String (Man with White Outfit)*, 2019**

Acrylic and assemblage on canvas  
91,4 x 61 x 8,25 cm (36 x 24 x 3,25 in)  
Unique piece