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Inside Gagosian Gallery's Talent Factory: How Gogo Directors Go on to Rule the Art World

Brian Boucher, Wednesday, October 28, 2015

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Larry Gagosian.

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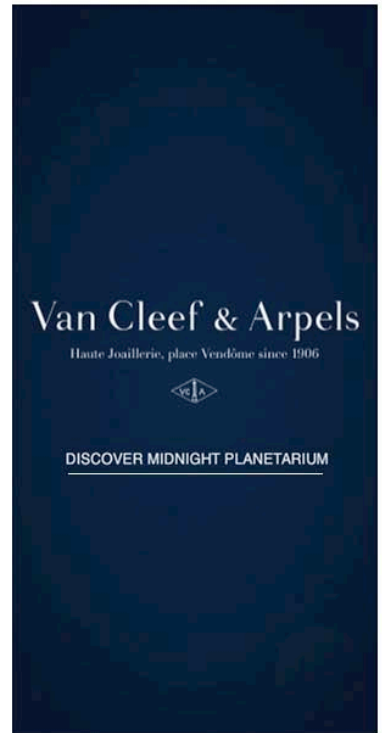
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The sun never sets on art dealer Larry Gagosian's empire, which includes no fewer than 15 galleries from New York to Hong Kong. This year marks the 20th anniversary of his Beverly Hills outpost, and if you're in London, Paris, Athens or Rome, you won't be far from one of his venues.

Known for exhibitions of modern masters like [Willem de Kooning](#), [Roy Lichtenstein](#), and [Pablo Picasso](#), he is also currently showing younger artists, like [Sterling Ruby](#) and [Jonas Wood](#).

Besides being a major force in the art market, his business is also a veritable talent factory, with Gagosian veterans going on to start their own galleries and ventures from New York to London.

Below, we profile a few Gagosian graduates who have gone on to great things.



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Pilar Ordovas with Lucian Freud.
Photo: David Dawson, courtesy Pilar Ordovas.

Pilar Ordovas, London dealer

London dealer Pilar Ordovas was director of Gagolian London from 2009-2011, and previously was director of postwar and contemporary art of Christie's Europe, where she oversaw sales that set records for works by [Lucian Freud](#) and [Francis Bacon](#). In 2011, she left Gagolian's orbit to start her gallery, on Savile Row in the Mayfair neighborhood, where Hauser & Wirth is a neighbor.

"My time at Gagolian was very empowering," she told artnet News by phone, "because he gave me total freedom, which allowed me to realize I was ready to go out on my own."

Since opening her own gallery, she has focused on modern and historical exhibitions, following up on what she did while at Gagolian, where she organized shows like "Crossing the Channel," which shed light on the friendship among Francis Bacon, [Lucian Freud](#), and [Alberto Giacometti](#). She describes it as her greatest achievement while working for Gagolian. (Her own collection includes contemporary artists like [Chris Ofili](#) and [Cornelia Parker](#).)

She's also been seen snapping up multimillion-dollar artworks for her clients at auction; [artnet News spotted her](#) winning a \$56.2-million canvas by Freud at Christie's New York this past May.

The dealer is hoping to make a splash this week, with a [pop-up show on Madison Avenue](#) of Spanish sculptor [Eduardo Chillida](#), her first sally into the jam-packed New York art gallery scene.