Pilar Ordovas, Ordovas

Unlike Loic Le Gaillard, for whom the home is an extension of the gallery, Pilar Ordovas's home is more of a retreat from a life where one could be at a private view or a dinner every night of the week. "I entertain at work and want to relax at home," says the elegant madrileña.

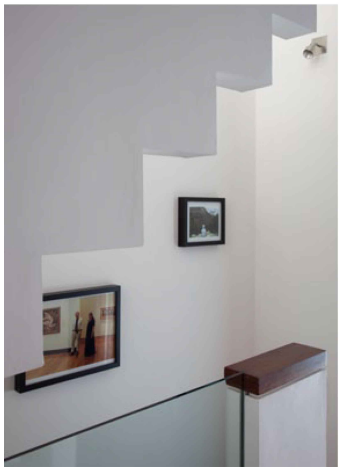
Ordovas has been in the UK for 15 years. After studying history of art in Edinburgh she worked at Christie's, then the Gagosian Gallery. Two years ago she converted a space in Savile Row into a two-level gallery. She and her husband Nicholas also moved to this house in Battersea, which had already been refurbished to usher in light. Floor-to-ceiling windows, glass balustrades and even a retractable skylight in the roof mean that it's very open. "I go to sleep looking at the stars," she says. "I sleep well."

The gallery, simply called Ordovas, is a classic "white box" that had been a shoe shop since the 1950s, and endeavours to have a "museum quality" programme. Currently on show is a unique joint project with the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam linking Rembrandt with Frank Auerbach, the 82-year-old British artist. "A painters' painter," she says, "the artist that Lucian Freud collected most."

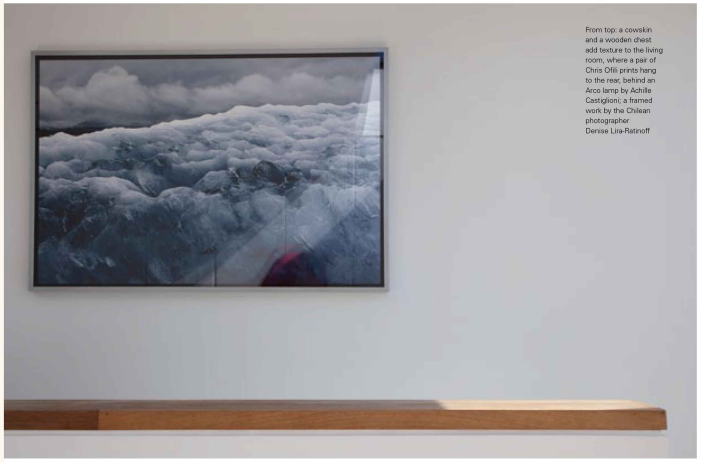
Freud was a friend of Ordovas, and there are a few framed photographs of him in the house. Grey and white walls contrast with dark wood floors, while bare raw concrete walls bring an air of adobe to SW11. "Nicholas doesn't want to hang anything on them," she says.

Artworks are found elsewhere. There are two Chris Ofili prints in the living room – "the first pictures we bought together" – and in front of them sits an Arco lamp by Achille Castiglioni. A cowskin and a chest in the centre of the room add texture. There's a print of *Release* by Richard Hamilton, the Pop artist's image of Mick Jagger handcuffed to art dealer Robert Fraser; photographs by the Chilean Denise Lira-Ratinoff, whom the couple admire, and a picture by American artist Glenn Ligon. An unusual curio is Ordovas's lovely collection of Spanish ivory boxes from the 18th and 19th centuries. "They're dance-card holders, inherited from my father," says Ordovas. "In the old days when you went to a dance, you'd put boys' names in the boxes." They add a personal touch to a dwelling in which any art fan would feel very much at home. ●

Raw Truth, Auerbach-Rembrandt, *is at Ordovas, 25 Savile Row, W1, until December 1; ordovasart.com*



Right to left: gallerist Pilar Ordovas, seated in front of the sitting room's bare concrete walls; a print of *Release* by Richard Hamilton; personal photographs hang on the walls of the staircase, including one of Ordovas with her friend Lucian Freud



From top: a cowskin and a wooden chest add texture to the living room, where a pair of Chris Ofili prints hang to the rear, behind an Arco lamp by Achille Castiglioni; a framed work by the Chilean photographer Denise Lira-Ratinoff