

# ANTHONY REYNOLDS GALLERY

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## PRESS RELEASE



## NANCY SPERO

10 OCTOBER – 15 NOVEMBER 2008

For over fifty years Nancy Spero's voice has echoed around the pillared halls of the art establishment; a voice angry, visionary, uncompromising and punishing in its relentless insistence and strength. But there is humour too, and beauty and mischief and delight. The figures that populate Spero's images have become icons of resistance, champions of an alternative potency. Few artists of our time have established such a rich pictorial lexicon or compelled us so forcefully to remember, reconsider and re-assess. Few have as openly chastised the systemic abuse of power and so vigorously asserted the raw politics of art from both a feminist and populist perspective. From the violence of birth in the *Black Paintings* of half a century ago to the mourning of the *Cri de Coeur* in 2005; from the war paintings of the 60's to the heads hanging from the maypole *Take No Prisoners* that soared over the entrance to the last Venice Biennale, Spero's women, the female sex, the goddess and the courtesan, the ruthlessly victimized and the celebrant of pleasure, the trampled and the triumphant, have processed and been processed through an extraordinary family history, a history expressed in the image, in the word and in the deed.

This exhibition will feature a major new work created expressly for the show. The exhibition coincides with the retrospective of Spero's work at MACBA Barcelona and the Museo Reina Sofía in Madrid. There are two important new publications available: the catalogue for the retrospective and *Codex Spero*, a comprehensive collection of the artist's writings over the last fifty years.

FOR IMAGES AND FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT [MARIA@ANTHONYREYNOLDS.COM](mailto:MARIA@ANTHONYREYNOLDS.COM)