

Jim Lambie Gives Pearl Lam Gallery A Psychedelic Rock Makeover



Courtesy Pearl Lam Gallery Hong Kong

Jim Lambie in front of "Plaza" and sitting on "The Strokes" at Pearl Lam Gallery.

off waves of energy. It's kinda trippy.

The "Sonic Reducer" (2008) sculpture series of stacks of vinyl record albums set in cubes of concrete are placed on top of the floor pattern, as though they are sinking into, or floating on top of, the swirls.

"The sculptures gives the feeling of drifting through the space, like music drifts through a room," said Lambie who was in Hong Kong for the opening of his exhibition.

The artist who was nominated for the **Turner Prize** in 2005, is also a musician and DJ. Much of his work is informed by popular culture and music. His installation at Pearl Lam Gallery is likened to a song where the floor pattern is a pulsating bassline and the other works dotted around the gallery are accents in the melody. This aesthetic sound manages to "fill the room and empty the room at the same time."

"The Strokes" is a variation of Lambie's signature work "Zobop," which has been covering the floors of different exhibition spaces since 1999. While "Zobop" emphasizes continuous lines, hard edges meeting in sharply defined corners, and color clashing, "The Strokes" is a pattern of monochromatic curves.

"I was trying to give the sense of Chinese ink painting," says Lambie of the floor pattern. "That is why I chose the color blue. I see the swirls like a doodle almost."

A "Vortex" is embedded into one wall. The piece made from concentric blue and white plastic discs that sink into the wall is meant to represent a continuation of the pattern beyond the gallery floor. "It's almost like the floor is getting sucked out of the room into the 'Vortex,' there's a piece of the wall that's taking you further into an imagined space," says Lambie.

The artist creates these hallucinatory patterns that lull us into a dream-like alternative psychological experience. He refers to his various art works as "dream-pieces" created by re-imagining ordinary scenes in daily life through a dream-like psychedelic lens.

Perhaps most representative of Lambie's vision is his "Psychedelic Soulstick" an autobiographical sculpture made from a stick of bamboo with personal items such as cigarette packets, beads, and socks attached to it, and the whole thing covered in colored thread. Lambie wraps the thread around the sculpture by hand. Over the years he has created multiples of this sculpture series.

"I like the idea of this being almost like a prayer stick. The action of wrapping is a monotonous action that I repeat over and over again. You do find

by Zoe Li

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Jim Lambie's exhibition at Pearl Lam Gallery.

HONG KONG — Scottish artist **Jim Lambie** has created a visual metaphor for music in his current

installation "The Flowers of Romance" at **Pearl Lam Gallery** in Hong Kong that will run through to May 15.

The entire gallery floor has been carpeted in one of Lambie's signature large-scale patterns. Titled "The Strokes," the pattern of swirls was created from blue and white vinyl tape. As soon as the we step into the gallery, we're struck by the throbbing psychedelic pattern that seems to give



yourself emptying out [as you wrap]. It sets itself up as a religious relic, but it's not.”

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