

PearlLam Galleries

Hong Kong SOHO

Ma Yujiang solo exhibition 'Cang Mang'



Left: Ma Yujiang b. 1988, **Dec 7, 1941, Attack on Pearl Harbor 02**, 2014–15, C-print, 100 x 137.5 cm (39 3/8 x 54 1/8 in.), Edition 1/5 + 2AP

Right: Original 1941 archival photograph of the attack on Pearl Harbor, C-print, 9.7 x 13 cm (3 7/8 x 5 1/8 in.)

Exhibition Dates

29 May–11 July, 2015

Monday–Saturday, noon–7pm; Sunday, noon–5pm

Pearl Lam Galleries Hong Kong SOHO

Shop No. 1, G/F & 1/F, SOHO 189, 189 Queen's Road West, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

Hong Kong—Pearl Lam Galleries is pleased to present Ma Yujiang's first solo exhibition, *Cang Mang*, in Hong Kong at SOHO 189, which will open to the public on Friday, 29 May. The young artist will debut a new series of work in which he manipulates archival WWII photos to explore loss and the theory of 'cang mang', which describes an emotional state of boundlessness and displacement of time and place in the context of social and political history.

Ma has a special affinity with the poetry of the late Taiwanese poet Chou Meng Tieh, who passed away in May 2014. He relates to the loneliness that Chou depicts in his poems as a result of feeling displaced. Ma moved from Shandong province to Beijing for school before immigrating to Hong Kong. Ma's personal encounter with Chou in Taipei proved to be a life-changing experience, which inspired him to create this unique body of artwork as a tribute to the poet. In the winter of 1948, Chou disembarked from a ship together with the youth army from Mainland China. Looking at the Strait of Taiwan from the Port of Kaohsiung, he suddenly felt he understood the meaning of 'cang mang'. Ma's large-scale photographic works give physical body to the deep sense of longing and solitude that pervades Chou's poetry, and focus on the psychological complexity of wanting to root one's identity in the face of displacement from a personal history, while being unsure of one's destiny.

Ma will present two photographic works that capture the Taiwan Strait and the Port of Kaohsiung in 2014, along with a manipulated old photograph, to portray the confusion of Chou's initial arrival in Taiwan.

The *Cang Mang* series consists of over 100 pieces, of which 13 will be shown in this exhibition, including contemporary photos of the Taiwan Strait taken by Ma, and 11 old WWII archival photos that the artist has 'cleaned' by removing evidence of violent scenes from places such as the beaches of Normandy and Pearl Harbor. Ma explains, "This series of photographs reminds us of how insignificant our existences are when we are confronted with the narrative of time and history. I want to express boundlessness in terms of space, time, life, death, and fate. I started from my own experience and broadened the time frame by bridging what happened in the past with eternal nature. By removing the warships and the scenes of destruction from the WWII archival photographs, I try to restore these locations to their original state of calm. Giving the sea back to the sea, and the sky back to the sky, so to speak, removes the distance that separated families, and recuperates a sense of peace within our void."

About Ma Yujiang

Ma Yujiang was born in 1988 in Zhangqiu, Shandong, China. He majored in Public Art at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, where he graduated in 2010. Ma currently lives and works in Hong Kong.

Ma spent his childhood with his grandparents in the countryside, where he studied Chinese calligraphy and traditional Chinese literature with his grandfather. Ma's work is deeply influenced by traditional Chinese art and culture, along with everyday life experiences, which he expresses through contemporary art language. Ma began exploring conceptual art at an early age. The artist leaves the completion of an artwork to the work itself. Human relationships, the exchange of emotion, displacement in different cities and the passing of time are all major influences in his work.

Major solo exhibitions include *Cang Mang* (2015), Pearl Lam Galleries, Hong Kong SOHO; and *Related to Me* (2012), Shangyuan Art Museum, Beijing, China. Selected group exhibitions include *Real & Unreal*, The 1st Changjiang International Photography & Video Biennale (2015), Changjiang Museum of Contemporary Art, Chongqing; *Unlived by What Is Seen* (2014), Tang Contemporary Art, Beijing, China; *4A, A4* (2013), 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney, Australia; *Do "I" have any problems?* (2013), 4-Face Space, 798 Art Zone, Beijing, China; and *XXX—Next 10 Years of Contemporary Art* (2011), Today Art Museum, Beijing, China. Ma has also completed projects as part of the Shangyuan International Residency Program in Beijing (2011–13).

About Pearl Lam Galleries

Founded by Pearl Lam, Pearl Lam Galleries is a driving force within Asia's contemporary art scene. With over 20 years of experience exhibiting Asian and Western art and design, it is one of the leading and most established contemporary art galleries to be launched out of China.

Playing a vital role in stimulating international dialogue on Chinese and Asian contemporary art, the Galleries is dedicated to championing artists who re-evaluate and challenge perceptions of cultural practice from the region. The Galleries in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Singapore collaborate with renowned curators, each presenting distinct programming from major solo exhibitions, special projects, and installations to conceptually rigorous group shows. Based on the philosophy of Chinese Literati where art forms have no hierarchy, Pearl Lam Galleries is dedicated to breaking down boundaries between different disciplines, with a unique gallery model committed to encouraging cross-cultural exchange.

Contemporary Chinese Abstract art is heavily represented in the Galleries roster. Influential Chinese artists Zhu Jinshi and Su Xiaobai, who synthesise Chinese sensibilities with an international visual language, are presented internationally with work now included in major private and public collections worldwide. The Galleries has also introduced leading international artists such as Jenny Holzer, Jim Lambie, and Yinka Shonibare MBE (RA) to markets in the region, providing opportunities for new audiences in Asia to encounter their work.

Pearl Lam Galleries encourages international artists to create new work which engages specifically with the region, collaborating to produce thought-provoking, culturally relevant work.

Press Enquiries

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