

# PearlLam Galleries

Singapore

ART STAGE 2016

Stand A10



Su Xiaobai, b. 1949, Dark Green 3, 2015, Oil, lacquer, linen, and wood, 175 x 170 x 14 cm

VIP Preview/Vernissage 20 January, 3–6pm / 20 January, 6–9pm  
Fair Dates 21 January, noon–8pm 22 January, noon–7pm  
23 January, 11am–7pm 24 January, 11am–6pm

Venue Marina Bay Sands, Sands Expo & Convention Centre, Level B2, 10 Bayfront Avenue, Singapore 018956

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Singapore—Pearl Lam Galleries is pleased to announce its participation in the 2016 edition of Art Stage, presenting artworks in the Galleries section at stand A10 and showcasing a special installation work by artist Yinka Shonibare MBE, located near the entrance of the fairgrounds. Art Stage is Singapore's preeminent international art fair and continues to attract top galleries from around the world in its anticipated sixth edition. The fair returns to the Sands Expo and Convention Centre on Level B2 of the iconic Marina Bay Sands in Singapore and will be open to the public from 21–24 January, 2016.

A special presentation of a major installation by acclaimed British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare MBE will be featured as an extension of the main Pearl Lam Galleries stand. The installation brings together three works from his *Invasion, Escape: Aliens do it right! Series: Alien Man on Flying Machine, Alien Child*, and the suspended *Alien Woman on Flying Machine*.

Pearl Lam Galleries' stand will feature works by leading contemporary artists from across the globe, including Chinese artists Li Tianbing, Qin Yufen, Qiu Deshu, Su Dong Ping, Su Xiaobai, Zhang Jianjun, and Zhu Jinshi; as well as Australian artists Dale Frank, Ben Quilty, and John Young, British artists Antony Micallef and Yinka Shonibare MBE, American artist Leonardo Drew, Indonesian artist Gatot Pujiarto, Korean artist Chun Kwang Young, and Tibetan artist Gonkar Gyatso.

Although these artists work with a variety of mediums and subject matters, they all contribute to the Galleries' mission of stimulating cross-cultural dialogue on contemporary art between China, the rest of Asia, and the West. Each is engaged with their cultural background and issues relating to identity, be they national, societal, or cultural.

## About Artists

Renowned Chinese artist Zhu Jinshi (b. 1954), whose works synthesise Chinese sensibilities with an international visual language, leads the line up at Pearl Lam Galleries' stand with an oil on canvas work, *Four Scholars on New Year's Eve-3*. Using traditional Chinese aesthetics, Zhu's canvases incorporate a series of 'mind images' that emphasise the harmony between mankind and the natural world.

Engaging with the struggle between the calligraphic and the rule-following methods of painting, Chinese artist Su Dong Ping (b. 1958) will present *2015 No. 4*, which investigates these thematic concerns. The artist allows thick layers of paint to accumulate over extended periods of time to make up the tactile surface of the painting.

Chun Kwang Young (b. 1944) combines his early experimentations with Abstract Expressionism with his mastery of mulberry paper, a uniquely Korean material, in his search for a culturally authentic mode of artistic expression. Wrapping individual triangular pieces of polystyrene in hand dyed mulberry paper, Chun creates the textured surfaced of his wall-hung assemblages.

Leonardo Drew (b. 1961) is another artist whose practice is centred around his choice of medium. Drew reflects on the universality of existence and the interconnectivity of all beings to one another through his works, illustrating these relationships through a combination of the visceral qualities of his chosen materials with the abstract sculptural forms that they make up. These cosmological frameworks are meant to mirror the organic reality of existence and reveal the resonance of life and humanity.

Dale Frank (b. 1959) explores the possibilities of paint and surfaces, working with Perspex to give his work an iridescent quality. He pours paint stripper and acid onto Perspex and allows them to pool, converge, and diverge by careful manipulation, creating abstract 'landscapes', which can be deciphered as wormholes that lead to another universe with infinite possibilities. The artist's imaginative titles like *Chinese Landscape 11—Instead he flew to New York and became a doughnut baker in Connecticut*, act as starting points to draw viewers into his works.

Qin Yufen's (b. 1954) abstract works borrow from the West while being rooted in Chinese tradition, depicting Oriental aesthetics of tranquillity and ethereality embodied by Zen meditation. Also seeking introspective contemplation is Gonkar Gyatso's (b. 1961) *9,784 Prayers*, a graphic work that mimics the veneration of stupas by walking around it in a clock-wise direction. Gyatso uses characters from

the Tibetan alphabet to construct the circular form. In an effort to use his work as a vehicle for spirituality and mindfulness, each character also represents a prayer said by Gyatso, similar to the recitation of mantras by Buddhist monks. Gonkar Gyatso's works will be featured in a solo exhibition at Michael C. Carlos Museum in Atlanta, Georgia in 2016.

Antony Micallef (b. 1975) will exhibit an oil on French linen painting titled *Self-Portrait on Grey No. 4*, while Ben Quilty (b. 1973) will display a portrait of his friend Augustin, a 'Parisienne studio assistant, artist, and rock star'. Smearing, smudging, and slapping thick layers of oil paint onto their chosen surfaces, the artists capture their energetic gestures in the visible brushstrokes that make up the work, embodying the spirit of their subject through their respective expressionistic styles.

Li Tianbing (b. 1974) chooses to free himself from the constraints of self-portraiture by painting monkeys in his Monkey series, as he does not feel as obliged to "be faithful to the monkeys' real rendering". Li will present three oil paintings from this series at the stand, exploring isolation and loneliness through the figure of the monkey. Though his self-portraits tend towards photorealism with a more muted palette to allude to the fading of memories, Li's monkeys feature more vibrant and intense colours while he employs more aggressive, almost violent, brushstrokes in their execution.

The Galleries will also present a pair of mystical works by Su Xiaobai (b. 1949) – one of China's most distinctive painters whose works straddle sculpture and painting. Ranging from shell-like finishes to sensuous, curved profiles and abraded textures, they exist entirely on their own terms, exuding their own history, character, and independent presence.

Another innovator in contemporary Asian art, Zhang Jianjun (b. 1955) is an astute observer of time. He explores the elemental fabric of historical and cultural ideology, demonstrating the transience and mutability of the urban environment through a work from his First Drop of Water series, on display at the stand.

John Young (b. 1956) will present one of his latest works *Veiled Spectrum VII*, a colourful oil on linen painting very much influenced by Western late Modernism. Young chooses an image to paint from thousands of computer-generated images based on his sentiments at the time and then applies predetermined Photoshop filters through batch processing to a variety of found images before selecting what he will paint from the resulting composites.

Qiu Deshu (b. 1948), a trained traditional Chinese painter, has developed his own technique to create his signature *Fissuring* works. Qiu applies colour to the delicate Xuan paper, which he then tears up before adhering to a base layer, often leaving space in between the fragments to create a pictorial field with the crack and crevices that he feels are symbolic of life's journey.

Last but not least, Indonesian artist Gatot Pujiarto (b. 1970) follows up his successful showing in his first solo exhibition at Pearl Lam Galleries Singapore, *Masquerade of Life* (2015), with two new mixed media works, showcasing his newly developed cross-stitching technique while extending his societal commentary.

## 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.

The 4 branches of Pearl Lam Galleries in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Singapore represent an increasingly influential roster of contemporary artists from 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 as well as introducing leading international artists such as Jenny Holzer, Leonardo Drew, Carlos Rolón/Dzine and Yinka Shonibare MBE 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.

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### Press Enquiries

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