

PearlLam Galleries

Hong Kong SOHO

Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions SINTA TANTRA solo exhibition

Exhibition Dates 23 September–22 October, 2016
Monday–Saturday, noon–7pm; Sunday, noon–5pm

Venue Pearl Lam Galleries Hong Kong SOHO
No. 1, G/F & 1/F, SOHO 189, 189 Queen's Road West, Sheung Wan

Hong Kong—Pearl Lam Galleries is pleased to present *Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions*, the first solo exhibition of British/Indonesian artist Sinta Tantra in Hong Kong. Tantra's vibrant geometric paintings explore the concept of "dimensions" through the use of colour and shapes. Well regarded for her site-specific works in the public realm, Tantra combines public art elements inside the gallery space, splicing together the interior and exterior world—tentatively, fluidly, and on and off the beat.

The exhibition title *Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions* is from the title of a satirical novella published in 1884 by Edwin A. Abbott, which explores hierarchy, social order, and internal tensions between individuals and a collective society through its examination of "dimensions". The story's narrator, A Square, comprehends the concepts of depth and dimension when he enters the three-dimensional world of Spaceland—an idea that Tantra explores throughout the entire exhibition.

Tantra examines the territory between two and three dimensions—the balance of push and pull. Her works define the clarity between the two but also finds endless ways of distorting it, questioning the relationship between painting and architecture. Influenced by her Balinese heritage, Tantra draws upon a bold and vibrant palette on an architectural scale, exposing the "architecture" of painting on raw linen, creating works that celebrate spectacle and question the decorative, functional, and social role of art. Tantra collages, layers and constructs with colour in her works. Colour, an integral element in the artist's work, straddles the language of art and industry.

Tantra's works merge pop and formalism, colour and rhythm, East and West, as well as identity and aesthetics. The artist is intrigued when private becomes public and when the viewer becomes active. Tantra's architectural works insert their identity, aesthetics, and fantasy into the functional. In this exhibition, the artist explores the association between pictorial and physical space, combining elements of public artwork inside the gallery space.

Sinta Tantra writes, "Can painting become architecture? Can architecture become a painting? I believe that it is the activity of drawing itself which physically links these two disciplines together. If drawing links painting with architecture, can drawing also reverse the way I paint? In other words, can architecture be applied on top of painting? And if so, do we as viewers become more immersed in its physical or pictorial dimensions?"

About Sinta Tantra

A British artist of Balinese descent, Sinta Tantra was born in New York in 1979. She studied at the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London 1999–2003 and at the Royal Academy Schools 2004–06.

Tantra is well regarded for her site-specific murals and installations in the public realm. These include works for the Southbank Centre, Liverpool Biennial, the Royal British Society of Sculptors, and Transport for London. Among Tantra's most notable works is a permanent landmark commission for Canary Wharf completed for the Olympics in 2012—a 300-metre-long painted bridge stretching over the water in the heart of London's business district. Recent public art commissions in 2015 include Newnham College of the University of Cambridge and the newly built "tech city" of Songdo, South Korea.

Recent international group shows include *Nick Hornby & Sinta Tantra: Collaborative Works* (2015), Choi and Lager Gallery, Cologne; *Bend Sinister* (2014), i-CAN, Yogyakarta; *Gatekeeper* (2014), William Holman Gallery, New York; Indonesian Contemporary Art and Design (2013), Grand Kemang Hotel, Jakarta; *The Fine Line* (2013), Identity Gallery, Hong Kong; and *Confined* (2012), NEST Gallery, The Hague.

Tantra has received awards including the prestigious Deutsche Bank Award and the British Council's International Development Award. She was also shortlisted for the Jerwood Painting Prize. Tantra's work has been featured in both UK and international press, including *Tate Shots*, *FAD Magazine*, the *Evening Standard's* Hot List 100, *Nylon Magazine* USA, the *Jakarta Post*, and BBC Radio Indonesia.

Tantra's works are in the UK Government Art Collection as well as private international collections.

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 four branches of Pearl Lam Galleries in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Singapore represent an increasingly influential roster of contemporary artists. 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, 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.

Press Enquiries

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