

PearlLam Galleries

TEFAF Maastricht 2017

Stand 533

Public Hours 10–18 March, 11am–7pm; 19 March, 11am–6pm

Venue MECC Maastricht, Forum 100, 6229 GV Maastricht, the Netherlands

Maastricht—Pearl Lam Galleries is delighted to announce its participation in TEFAF Maastricht 2017 (10–19 March), one of the world's oldest and most prestigious art fairs, for the second time. The Galleries is the first and remains the only art gallery from Greater China to participate in the Modern sector of the fair.

In line with the Galleries' mission of encouraging dialogue between art and artists from Asia and beyond Asia, the stand will feature a selection of work from three artists who have been chosen for their significance in art and its unwritten art history: Robert Motherwell (b. 1915, Washington, USA –d. 1991, Massachusetts, USA), Su Xiaobai (b. 1949, Wuhan, China), and Zhu Jinshi (b. 1954, Beijing, China). By placing the works of Su, and Zhu alongside those of Motherwell, the Galleries aims to further discussion on the differences and similarities between Chinese and Western understanding of the development of art.

Robert Motherwell was the youngest member of and an unofficial spokesman and interpreter for the Abstract Expressionist movement. Drawn to automatism and the unconscious modes of human thinking, the surrealists remained a lifelong influence on his practice after his time studying with seminal art historian Meyer Schapiro in Columbia in the 1940s. Asian calligraphy was a source of fascination and he often painted with ink and a calligrapher's brush, focusing on rapid execution, recalling his lifelong interest in Zen.

Su Xiaobai is part of the first generation of artists who left China for Europe. Exposed to the practices of artists like Konrad Klapheck, Gerhard Richter, and Markus Lüpertz in Düsseldorf, Germany, he combines what he perceives to be a Germanic sensibility with an aesthetic and philosophical practice rooted in Chinese tradition. The past 25 years of his practice have centred on research and experimentation with the visual effects of lacquer from around the world, which has translated into works that express increasingly simple yet sophisticated ideas. While Su has developed his own unique way of working with lacquer, the focus of his works is not on the materiality of lacquer; instead, lacquer is used as a tool to convey a sense of existentialism and worldly quality rooted in the three teachings of Chinese philosophy: Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism.

Zhu Jinshi is one of the pioneers of Chinese abstract and installation art. Zhu spent decades in Berlin, Germany and chose to familiarise himself with the conceptual and installation art movements at the time. His paintings are characterised by a thick layering of oil paint, which gives his works a three-dimensional, sculptural effect. His mode of application expresses the spiritual idea of "non-abidance" that is central to Eastern aesthetic theory. Zhu's approach to abstraction comes from that of ink painting, where the mind

must be empty. The artist must be in a meditative state to connect to *tian di ren*: the ultimate peace in the unity of the three (heaven, earth, and man) in one.

These artists represent some of the disparate and varied international origins of abstract art. Believing in the importance of the experimentation and exploration of various modes of meditative and automatic art making, Motherwell, Su, and Zhu are brought together by an unconscious engagement of similar processes in the production of art.

About the Artists

ROBERT MOTHERWELL

Robert Motherwell (24 January, 1915–16 July, 1991) was a Stanford University, Harvard and Columbia University educated American painter, printmaker, accomplished writer, editor, and eloquent speaker. Through his teaching, lectures, and publications, he became an unofficial spokesman and interpreter for the Abstract Expressionist movement, championing fellow artists and providing a critical link between European artists and his American contemporaries through his wide array of intellectual interests. Several key themes define Motherwell's work: the dialogue between repression and rebellion, between European modernism and a new American vision, and between formal and emotional approaches to art making.

Motherwell's works are in the collections of major international institutions, including the Albright-Knox Gallery, Buffalo, NY, USA; the Art Institute of Chicago, IL, USA; the Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA, USA; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA, USA; the Menil Collection, the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, TX, USA; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., USA; the Tate Gallery, London, UK; the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Hara Museum, Tokyo, Japan; and KIASMA—Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland.

SU XIAOBAI

Su Xiaobai, one of China's most distinctive painters, was born in 1949 in Wuhan, Hubei province, China. In 1965, he joined the School of Arts and Crafts in Wuhan, and from 1985 to 1987 he studied oil painting at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing. In 1987, he moved to Germany to pursue his postgraduate studies at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf (Düsseldorf State Arts Academy), returning to China in 2003. He currently lives and works between Shanghai and Düsseldorf.

Recent notable exhibitions include *Su Xiaobai: Luminescence* (2016), Pearl Lam Galleries, Singapore; *The World Is Yours, as Well as Ours* (2016), White Cube Mason's Yard, London, UK; *The Act of Painting in Contemporary China* (2015), PAC Milan Museum of Contemporary Art, Italy; *Su Xiaobai: Painting and Being* (2014), Pearl Lam Galleries, Hong Kong; *Grand Immensity: The Art of Su Xiaobai* (2013), National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan; *Su Xiaobai* (2010), Raketstation Hombroich, Neuss, Germany; *The Dynasty of Colours* (2009), Langen Art Foundation, Neuss, Germany; *Kao Gong Ji—Su Xiaobai Solo Exhibition* (2008), Today Art Museum, Beijing, China; and *Yi Pai: Thirty Years of Chinese Abstract Art* (2008), Beijing, China and Madrid, Spain.

ZHU JINSHI

Born in Beijing, China in 1954, Zhu Jinshi is a pioneer of Chinese abstract art and installation art. Zhu began painting abstract works in the late 1970s and moved to Berlin in 1986, splitting his time between Berlin and Beijing since 1994 before settling in Beijing in 2010.

His works have been collected internationally by notable public and private collections, including the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, USA; Brooklyn Museum, USA; Busan Museum of Art, Korea; Delphine Arnault, France; Deutsche Bank, Germany; Mario Testino, UK; The Rubell Family Collection, USA;

Guangdong Museum of Art, China; Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada; and White Rabbit Collection, Australia.

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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