

# PearlLam Galleries

## ART BRUSSELS 2017

Stand B36

Public Viewing 21–23 April, 11am–7pm  
Venue Tour & Taxis, Avenue du Port 86C, BE-1000 Brussels, Belgium

Brussels—Pearl Lam Galleries is pleased to announce its participation in Art Brussels at what will be the fair's historic 35th edition. The Galleries will be the one of the few from Asia to participate alongside 145 other galleries. In addition to a stand in the Prime section, the Galleries will also present Jenny Holzer's *Untitled: Meat Hook* at Art Brussels' flagship exhibition, *Mementos: Artists' Souvenirs, Artefacts and other Curiosities*, curated by Jens Hoffmann and Piper Marshall.

The main stand will feature works by contemporary artists from around the world including Chun Kwang Young (b. 1944, South Korea), Leonardo Drew (b. 1961, USA), Golnaz Fathi (b. 1972, Iran), Gonkar Gyatso (b. 1961, Tibet, China), Antony Micallef (b. 1975, UK), Gatot Pujiarto (b. 1970, Indonesia), Qian Jiahua (b. 1987, China), Qin Yufen (b. 1954, China), Ren Ri (b. 1984, China), Su Xiaobai (b. 1949, China), Sinta Tantra (b. 1979, USA), Thukral & Tagra (b. 1976 & b. 1979, India), Yang Yongliang (b. 1980, China), John Young (b. 1956, Hong Kong), Zhou Yangming (b. 1971, China), and Zhu Jinshi (b. 1954, China).

At the stand, abstraction in its various forms, languages and geography is placed in dialogue with each other in an attempt to expand our understanding of this term. Cultural background and generational disparity affect how artists approach their work, including the use of material and composition, among other differences. Qian Jiahua, Ren Ri, and Yang Yongliang are three emerging artists who demonstrate varying perspectives, using subtly ungeometric shapes, the movement of worker bees, and photographic montage on Song dynasty paintings in their respective expressions. Newly part of the Galleries' stable, their works resonate with the presentations by Leonardo Drew, Golnaz Fathi, Antony Micallef, and Sinta Tantra. Two works by Thukral & Tagra, whose solo exhibition is currently on view at the Galleries' Soho space in Hong Kong, will also be on show.

"I am looking forward to exhibiting at Art Brussels, where we are also involved in the *Mementos* exhibition with *Untitled: Meat Hook* by Jenny Holzer. Since opening my first gallery in 2005, I have intended to introduce to audiences worldwide the relationship between art from the West and the rest of the world. Art Brussels provides a new and important platform for us to further this vision."

—Pearl Lam

## About the Artists

### CHUN KWANG YOUNG

Chun Kwang Young (b. 1944, Korea) 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

The practice of Leonardo Drew (b. 1961, USA) 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.

### GOLNAZ FATHI

Golnaz Fathi's (b. 1972, Iran) works are influenced by traditional Persian calligraphy, but are entirely modern. She practices drawing the lines on paper every day until the paper is covered with black ink. Despite the fact that writing is a significant element in her works, Fathi does not aim to present the existing aesthetic value and form of traditional calligraphy, but instead unites these values and forms with images that can be appreciated in the contemporary world.

### GONKAR GYATSO

London-based Gonkar Gyatso (b. 1961, Tibet) seeks introspective contemplation in *4,314 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.

### GATOT PUJIARTO

Inspired by uncommon events and unexpected occurrences from collected stories and his own personal experiences, Malang-based artist Gatot Pujiarto (b. 1970, Indonesia) manipulates textiles and magazine cuttings by tearing, pasting, braiding, and stitching his materials. His darkly humorous caricature *Lust (Hasrat)* draws upon his personal memories. Reflecting on his experiences as he created the work, Pujiarto muses at our insignificance amidst the majestic creations of God.

### QIAN JIAHUA

Known for her paintings of structures that possess rigid accuracy but musical cadence, Qian Jiahua's (b. 1987, China) work resembles buildings as colour, lines, and planes interact and support one another, evoking a sense of architectural balance and harmony. The sense of mathematic rigour and precision helps to construct striking visual orders that create new experiences of visual perception for the viewer.

### REN RI

Ren Ri (b. 1984, China) is known for his beeswax sculptures. Considered an unusual and difficult material to work with, Ren's understanding of bee psychology and nature assist him in his creative process. He works in collaboration with insects to create his mesmerising artwork. To manipulate natural processes, the artist must find a balance as he cooperates with nature to accomplish his artistic goals.

## SU XIAOBAI

Su Xiaobai (b. 1949, China) gained first-hand experience of avant-garde Western art while studying at Kunstakademie in Dusseldorf, which radically affected his outlook. During the 1990s his work became progressively less figurative, and following his return to China in 2003, it has increasingly focused on essential characteristics of colour, shape and surface. Su unrestrainedly experimented with oil, lacquer, linen, wood, etc., as a substitute for oil on canvas, where lacquer and linen are in a purely structural and balanced composition. These elements alone underpin the creation of paintings whose self-contained presence is both affective and mysterious.

## SINTA TANTRA

British-based Indonesian artist Sinta Tantra (b. 1979, New York) is similarly engaged with the relationship between painting and architecture. The artist examines the divide between the second and third dimensions; her paintings define the two dimensions clearly, yet also find endless ways of distorting it. A bold and vibrant palette inspired by her Balinese heritage is typical of Tantra's works, merging pop and formalism, colour and rhythm, East and West, as well as identity and aesthetics.

## THUKRAL & TAGRA

Thukral & Tagra (b. 1976 & b. 1979, India) blur the lines between fine art and popular culture, product placement and exhibition design, as well as artistic inspiration and media hype. With playfulness and humour, their works comment on the globalisation of consumer culture and its repercussions, which are being experienced in India today. They pose thoughtful questions about the nature of Indian identity as articulated by Indians themselves and projected onto India by the rest of the world.

## YANG YONGLIANG

Yang Yongliang (b. 1980, China) is best known for the intricate landscapes he creates by integrating layer upon layer of urban and natural images together. The artist believes that the future is increasingly moving towards digital media, but he still values painting as part of his practice. He will be exhibiting *Vanishing Landscape—Sanshui #1* (2016), a triptych that he painted mainly using a mixture of acrylic and cement, a material closely associated with the urban landscape. Yang's landscapes unfold themselves as a fable of the development of modern civilisation upon closer views.

## JOHN YOUNG

John Young Zerunge (b. 1956, Hong Kong) moved to Australia in 1967. He read philosophy of science and aesthetics at the University of Sydney and then studied painting and sculpture at Sydney College of the Arts, specifically with the conceptual artist Imants Tillers and musical prodigy David Ahern. He currently lives and works in Melbourne. His investigation of Western late modernism prompted significant phases of work from a bi-cultural viewpoint, including multiple series of paintings in the last four decades: the *Silhouette Paintings*, *Polychrome Paintings*, *Double Ground Paintings*, and *Abstract Paintings*.

## ZHOU YANGMING

Born in 1971 in Taizhou, China, Zhou Yangming has been living and working in Beijing for over 20 years. Since childhood, Zhou Yangming has been interested in art and is now one of the most distinctive Chinese abstract artists in China. While studying in Beijing in 1996, he joined Xu Beihong's studio to improve his artistic practice. Later, he moved to Songzhuang artist village, and recently organised several exhibitions dedicated to this place. Zhou's works are all based on line and space, which ultimately reflect his thoughts and ideas at that specific moment. By drawing and painting line upon line, he creates a colourful surface which shows great training of both the hand and mind.

## 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. During his time in Berlin, Zhu was exposed to Western art movements and experimented with performance, installation, and conceptual forms. In his impasto oil paintings, the paint is applied with shovels and other heavy-duty implements, and the works themselves take several years to dry.

## 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.

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## Press Enquiries

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