

PearlLam Galleries

ART SHENZHEN 2018

Stand C19

Public Hours 15–16 September, 10am–7:30pm; 17 September, 10am–4:30pm
Venue Shenzhen Convention and Exhibition Centre, Shenzhen, China

Shenzhen—Pearl Lam Galleries is pleased to announce its participation in the third edition of Art Shenzhen, one of Asia's fastest growing art fairs. The city has been dubbed the next city to watch due to its rapid growth in art and design. The fair attracts the vanguard of the contemporary art world, including established and up-and-coming collectors and galleries from around the world.

As one of Asia's leading galleries with spaces in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Singapore, Pearl Lam Galleries will present works by Chinese contemporary artists Luke Heng (b. 1987, Singapore), Huang Yuanqing (b. 1963, China), Liu Wentao (b. 1973, China), Ni Zhiqi (b. 1957, China), Qin Yufen (b. 1954, China), Ren Ri (b. 1984, China), Shi Yiran (b. 1983, China), Su Xiaobai (b. 1949, China), Zhang Jian-Jun (b. 1955, China), Zhou Yangming (b. 1971, China), and Zhu Jinshi (b. 1954, China).

About the Artists

LUKE HENG

Singaporean artist Luke Heng (b. 1987) is interested in the dialectics between painting, object, and picture making. His earlier practice revolves around the conceptualized and physical manifestation of painting. With his works often responding to the history of painting while drawing from various other art forms to influence his approach and process. His most recent practice extends into installation and sculpture, while he introduces depth and perspective into his new oil on linen paintings. Heng graduated with a BA (Hons) in Fine Arts from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2013, which he attended on a scholarship, and he has since been actively practicing art both locally and internationally.

HUANG YUANQING

Huang Yuanqing was born in Shanghai in 1963, and he graduated from Shanghai Normal University. His works are influenced by Western Abstract Expressionism and traditional Chinese calligraphy. In the 1980s, his open and liberal approach to Chinese calligraphy allowed him to create his own "abstract calligraphy", which integrates Western oil painting techniques. Colour plays an integral role in the artist's works, as it seems to float in the air, or as if swimming on the surface of water. Another essential element is his use of lines, which is painted over multiple times to build texture and shapes.

LIU WENTAO

Liu Wentao was born in Qingdao, China in 1973. With interweaving of simple straight lines on the flat canvas, he creates a material conversation and superposition between his pencil drawings. The refraction of light caused by the lead's texture interacts with the diverse, three-dimensional geometrical canvas frames, using a minimalist method to present the transformation of light and space to the viewer. As an experimenter of form, Liu regards the void of the canvas as the starting point of his

works. His dark lead pencil strokes are not created to manufacture meaning; instead, they endlessly contribute to a combined dialectical relationship between “nothingness” and “presence”.

NI ZHIQI

Ni Zhiqi was born in 1957 in Shanghai, China. He graduated from the Shanghai Light Industry College and furthered his studies at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Belgium, where he was awarded the first-class prize in the exhibition by Karel Veslat. In Ni's *Alhambra* series (2017), which combines both collage and paint, the artist chose to cover the canvas with a specific handmade paper produced by ancient and secretive Chinese papermaking techniques. The core concept hidden in the faded colour and rough edges of his works is a philosophical outlook on time and memories from an Asian perspective.

QIN YUFEN

Qin Yufen was born in 1954 in Shandong province. She began to create abstract art in the late 1970s. In the mid-1980s, she moved to Germany where she was influenced by Western painting. Her works from this period used both Western and traditional Chinese ink painting techniques, while still depicting Oriental aesthetics of tranquillity and ethereality embodied by Zen meditation. Her works often integrate visuals, audio, and symbols of Chinese traditions, as well as modern elements. Qin's concepts are implied in the poetic atmosphere, as she uses her unique feminine way of expressing the individual aesthetics of self-examination and contemplation.

REN RI

Ren Ri was born in 1984 in Harbin, China. He studied fine art at Tsinghua University before receiving his master's degree at Saint-Petersburg Herzen State University in Russia. He also holds a PhD in Fine Art from Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing. Ren's choice of medium is beeswax. The artist's understanding of bee psychology helps him to collaborate with the bees to create a series of mesmerizing sculptures. His most famous series, *Yuansu II*, consists of stunning geometrical sculptures, made using bee psychology. The queen was put in the middle of a box, while the other bees started building around her. Every seven days, a reference to the seven days of creation, Ren Ri randomly changed the position of the box by rolling a dice to create the shape of the sculpture.

SHI YIRAN

Shi Yiran was born in Jining, Inner Mongolia in 1983. In 2017, she graduated from the department of oil painting at China Academy of Art (CAA) and received her doctorate in Painting Practice. Shi works solely on oil paintings with her works originating in realism. She uses wit to express her own thoughts, as well as those of an entire generation. The brushwork of Shi's paintings is so delicate that people and scenery are ambiguous, as if they were covered by a veil. Her works partly relate to her growth experience, embodying the conflicts between her memory and reality and showcasing unique lyricism.

SU XIAOBAI

Su Xiaobai was born in Wuhan, China in 1949. He 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, and other materials 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.

ZHANG JIAN-JUN

Zhang Jian-Jun was born in 1955 in Shanghai. He graduated from the Shanghai Theatre Academy's Department of Fine Arts in 1978 and moved to the United States in 1989. At present, he is a professional artist and Clinical Associate Professor at New York University Shanghai. Zhang began to pursue abstract painting in the 1980s. He expresses his personal perspective on humankind and the universe through the integrity of language and constantly explores the existence of the ontological status. His

work displays a great sense of belief and understanding of Oriental style. The artist uses loose and reserved brushstrokes to illustrate Oriental cosmology and existentialism.

ZHOU YANGMING

Born in 1971 in Taizhou, China, Zhou Yangming has been living and working in Shanghai for over 20 years. Since childhood, Zhou 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 organized 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 colourful surfaces that show 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: 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.

Further building on the Galleries' commitment, Pearl Lam Galleries opened its latest gallery at H Queen's, Hong Kong's latest art hub, in March 2018. The five gallery spaces of Pearl Lam Galleries in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Singapore represent an increasingly influential roster of contemporary artists. Chinese artists Su Xiaobai and Zhu Jinshi, who synthesize 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 Leonardo Drew, Jenny Holzer, 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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