

PearlLam Galleries

Shanghai

Pearl Lam Galleries' Participation in West Bund Art & Design 2018 Coincides with Ni Zhiqi's First Solo Exhibition in Shanghai

Shanghai—Pearl Lam Galleries will participate in West Bund Art & Design in Shanghai for the fifth time in 2018, presenting works by leading contemporary artists from across the globe. Meanwhile, the Galleries will present artist Ni Zhiqi's debut Shanghai solo exhibition *Vacuum. Dry Land. Into the Room.*

WEST BUND ART & DESIGN

GALLERIES

Stand A103, West Bund Art Center

8–11 November, 2018

Pearl Lam Galleries will once again participate in the Galleries sector of the show, featuring artworks by international artists including Korean Chun Kwang Young (b. 1944); American Leonardo Drew (b. 1961); Cameroonian Pascale Marthine Tayou (b. 1967); and Chinese artists Huang Yuanqing (b. 1963), Liu Wentao (b. 1973), Ni Zhiqi (b. 1957), Qin Yufen (b. 1954), Su Xiaobai (b. 1949), Zhou Yangming (b. 1971), and Zhu Jinshi (b. 1954).

Known for his sculptural assemblages—both freestanding pieces and wall-hung low reliefs—Chun Kwang Young composes his forms from a myriad of small shapes wrapped in Korean mulberry paper. With a trompe l'oeil quality, his sculptures create the illusion of depth and coalescence and, ultimately, represent the harmony and conflict in the unity of many. His exhibiting sculptural *Aggregations* feature hand-cut triangles of polystyrene, individually wrapped in delicate mulberry paper pages torn from old books. The result is a strikingly textured low-relief wall work, both visually and materially.

Leonardo Drew is an artist whose practice is centered around his choice of medium. The Galleries will exhibit three of his recent large-scale sculptural works. The materials he chooses are always of particular importance. After his two-year experiment in Jingdezhen, the porcelain capital of China, Drew finally succeeded in his attempt to incorporate ceramics with wood.

Self-taught artist Pascale Marthine Tayou's work deals with a variety of themes and draws inspiration from all over the world as well as from his own cultural traditions. This is due to his idea of connecting with the contemporary world and emphasis on "revelations". Epiphanies may occur during his process of creation, thus perfecting his originally "imperfect" work. Although his work is not interactive, Tayou hopes that his audiences may also experience their own epiphanies when viewing his creations.

As for the Chinese artists, the Galleries is delighted to be showing *Untitled 2018-06* by the pioneering Chinese abstract expressionist Huang Yuanqing. The artist integrates Eastern calligraphy with Western painting techniques and approaches. Huang's paintings are rooted in Chinese literati art, but use contemporary methods. He works from the traditional concept that both painting and calligraphy stem from the same source. With colourful calligraphic lines and layers of texture, Huang's intuitive language possesses an atmosphere of self-command and introspection.

Liu Wentao has established a distinguished artistic practice in pencil drawings, having used pencil as his principle tool for over a decade. The metallic reflection of pencil and graphite fascinates the artist. Liu's pencil works are composed of meticulously drawn straight lines on flat canvases, constructing spaces conceived by the distortion from the two-dimensional to the three-dimensional.

As an up-and-coming young artist during the '85 New Wave Movement, Ni Zhiqi came to prominence with his early expressions and explorations in surrealism and cubism. In his *Alhambra* series, the artist covers the canvas with handmade paper produced by ancient and secretive Chinese papermaking techniques. Combining both collage and paint, the works brim with tile patterns and evoke a feeling of infiniteness while recalling memories of the red palace built by Moors in Spain in the Middle Ages. Ni's work reflects a philosophical outlook on time and memories from an Asian perspective.

Qin Yufen's abstract works borrow from Western concepts while still being rooted in Chinese tradition. They depict Oriental aesthetics of tranquility and ethereality embodied by Zen meditation. On show will be her recent painting *Berlin 1987 No. 2*, which is painted on a large sheet of rice paper and transcends traditional aesthetics using magnificent strokes. The work is also regarded as paving the way for today's new ink and wash art.

Su Xiaobai has developed his own technique using lacquer, a medium steeped in Chinese history, to create works that combine elements of painting and sculpture. Su focuses on essential qualities like colour, shape, and texture, which in various combinations produce unique surfaces that range from smooth and sensuous to carved and abraded. Each piece exudes its own history, character, and independent presence.

Zhou Yangming is one of the most distinctive abstract artists in China. His works are all based on line and space, which ultimately reflect his thoughts and ideas at a specific moment. By drawing line upon line, Zhou constructs a feeling of "infinity" in his artistic creations. He narrates his own feelings about space through multiple works in the same series.

Zhu Jinshi, a pioneer of Chinese abstract art, will exhibit his "thick paintings". His wall-hung works, executed in the mature period of his career, present themselves as low reliefs. After 30 years of unwavering efforts, Zhu's abstract paintings break the constraints of a flat canvas and transform the traditional visual experience through the use of three dimensions.

AT PEARL LAM GALLERIES, SHANGHAI

"NI ZHIQI: Vacuum. Dry Land. Into the Room"

Pearl Lam Galleries, 181 Middle Jiangxi Road, Shanghai, China 200002

3 November–30 December, 2018

Vacuum. Dry Land. Into the Room is artist Ni Zhiqi's debut solo exhibition in Shanghai, which brings together his recent mixed media paintings as well as selections from the past two decades. Ni's works are largely inspired by his travels and take their cue from a montage of associative imageries found in interiorized windows and floorings, such as mosaic tiles. The influence is evident in the artist's sharpened use of geometrical variations that dominate his compositions. He captures the non-referential manifestation of perception by combining painting and collage, implementing the stylistic forms of contours and muted hues in the layered treatment of the exhibiting works. Ni utilizes a diverse range of found materials that form personal assemblages of time, including handmade paper he collected from Guizhou, vintage book pages he sourced from his travels, yarn from fashion design classes he teaches, anonymous old envelopes and discarded packages, etc.

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 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 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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