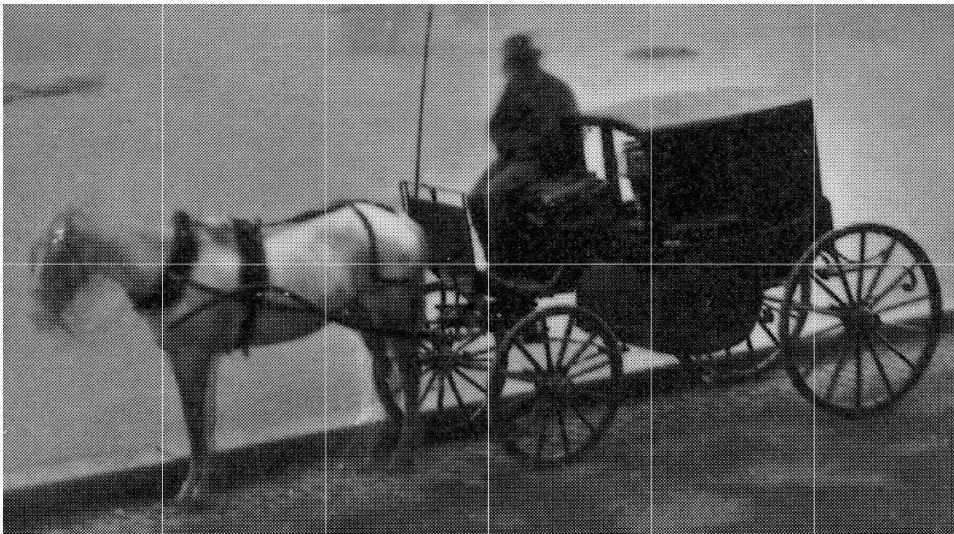


# PearlLam Galleries

Pearl Lam Galleries presents  
Michael Wilkinson's first solo exhibition in China

## Michael Wilkinson: *En Attendant*



*En Attendant* (2012), 12 digital prints, 300 x 540 cm

### Exhibition Dates

15 April–12 May, 2013

Monday-Sunday, 10:30am–7pm

Opening reception on 14 April, 2013, 5-7pm

Pearl Lam Galleries, 181 Middle Jiangxi Road, G/F, Shanghai, China 200002

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**SHANGHAI**—Pearl Lam Galleries will present the first ever exhibition of British artist **Michael Wilkinson**'s work in China. ***En Attendant*** will present over 20 works including new large-scale collages and important sculptures and canvases from the recent *Dresden* series. The exhibition will run **15 April–12 May, 2013** at Pearl Lam Galleries in Shanghai.

Wilkinson's work is characterised by subtly layered collages, which draw from a variety of cultural references such as pop culture, political and art history, punk rock and anarchism. The artist uses materials including found photographs from the 19th and 20th centuries, blackboard paint, beeswax, audio and VHS tape, vinyl records, cellophane and etched mirrors.

The centerpiece of the exhibition, *En Attendant* (2013), is an almost life-size black and white print of a horse-drawn carriage, blown up to over 5m wide from a small detail of a 19th century photograph of the Hôtel de Ville, Paris, in ruins after the suppression of the Commune in 1871. In the foreground, the horse and carriage remain motionless, whilst the figures surrounding it have been rendered ghost-like due to the long exposure.

Paris features in a number of other works on show, from the 19<sup>th</sup> century into modern day. One series of etched mirrors uses the faces of onlookers during a clash with riot police in May 1968, contrasted against atmospheric newspaper cuttings from the same period showing an armoured car on a motorway at night, or smiling policemen holding up a tattered red flag.

This new series focusing on Paris is displayed alongside important collages from Wilkinson's recent *Dresden* series (2012). The *Dresden* works reference the 'Seditionaries' clothing shop which operated during the 1970s punk rock era, run by renowned British fashion designers Vivienne Westwood and Malcolm McLaren, which used photographs of bombed out Dresden during the Second World War for wallpaper. Historians have described the shelling of Dresden as one of the most controversial attacks by the British military during World War II—a metaphor for the punk aesthetic, the end of the Establishment and of seemingly cultured society.

Wilkinson's *Dresden* series focuses on his hometown of Liverpool—large-scale mirrors etched with images appropriated from old photographs showing the effects of heavy bombing during World War II. By using 'Dresden' as the title of the series, the artist uses the city as a metaphor for other locations across Europe united by destruction, whilst referencing the 1970s punk era.

Large-scale sculptures will punctuate the collages installed throughout the gallery. Audio and VHS tape hang in clumps from the ceiling and vinyl records lie stacked in towers. By displaying the means by which we record and re-experience past events through recorded imagery, sound, popular music or films, Wilkinson examines collective cultural history and questions the way in which we attempt to record and re-experience it.

This major solo exhibition of Michael Wilkinson's work in China represents Pearl Lam Galleries' mission to stimulate cross-cultural dialogue between Asia and the West, bringing important European and American artists to China whilst promoting the work of emerging and established Asian artists across the gallery's three exhibition spaces.

## About Michael Wilkinson

Michael Wilkinson (b. 1965, Merseyside, UK) currently lives and works in Glasgow, Scotland. His solo exhibitions include *No History* (2012) at Blum & Poe, LA; *Never Works* (2011) at Le Temple, Paris; *Lions After Slumber* (2009) at The Modern Institute/Toby Webster Ltd; and *Wrong Gallery* (2004), New York. Recent group exhibitions include *Rubble Stir* (2010) at The Glue Factory, Glasgow; *Wayfinders* (2006) at 135 Castlebank Street, Glasgow; and *All That Is Solid Melts Into Air* (2004) at FRAC des Pays de la Loire, Carquefou. His book *1979–* was published in 2012 by Blackdog Publishing, London.

## About Pearl Lam Galleries

Founded by Pearl Lam, the Galleries' mission is to stimulate cross-cultural dialogue and cultural exchange between East and West by establishing distinct and rigorous programming in each of its gallery spaces in Hong Kong, Shanghai and the forthcoming Singapore gallery.

Pearl Lam Galleries is dedicated to championing Chinese artists who re-evaluate the philosophy and perception of Chinese contemporary art, whilst also committed to presenting major exhibitions by international artists. Jim Lambie, Jenny Holzer, Yinka Shonibare and Zhu Jinshi are among the line-up of artists who will have solo exhibitions at the Galleries in 2013.

Pearl Lam Design shows works by established and emerging international designers including André Dubreuil, Maarten Baas, Mattia Bonetti, and Studio Makkink & Bey. They are invited to push the boundaries of traditional Chinese art and craft techniques and create new works that reflect their experiences in China.

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## Press Enquiries

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