

Gallerist stuns with new art space



Photo: Pearl Lam Gallery

Helmi Yusof
The Business Times
Monday, Feb 03, 2014

SINGAPORE - Undoubtedly, one of the best art exhibitions in town is happening at the newly-opened Pearl Lam Galleries Singapore in Gillman Barracks.

Lam hails from Hong Kong, and has long been a fixture in the chi chi art scene with her glamorous outfits, flamboyant wigs and larger-than-life Auntie Mame personality. Having successfully run two art galleries in Shanghai and Hong Kong, she's now making a bid for the market here.

For her first show, she's put on works by five terrific abstract artists from around the world - Indonesia's Christine Ay Tjoe, China's Su Xiaobai and Zhi Jinshi, American Pat Steir and Briton Peter Peri.

Lam has exquisite taste in abstracts and the selection doesn't disappoint. Ay Tjoe's sensuous canvases brim with bouquet-like splashes of reds and pinks, all expressions of pure spirit - even if one of her works titled Conscientious Gluttony veers uncharacteristically towards the figurative.

In contrast, the wood and lacquer painted panels by Su bear a Rothko-esque minimalist intensity with nary a brushstroke out of place.

The real draw of the exhibition, however, are Zhu Jinshi's canvases with their thick impasto build-up of paint, so dense and textural they resemble sculptures in their three-dimensionality.

Lam's gallery is substantially larger than many of the galleries in Gillman. So most of the works sit on their own walls, preventing the common problem of strong works diminishing each other's when they're placed too close together.

All we're left to say - after putting our eyeballs back into their sockets - is: Welcome to Singapore, Ms Lam.

helmi@sph.com.sg

Pearl Lam Galleries Singapore is located at 9 Lock Road #03-22, Gillman Barracks. Closed on Mondays and public holidays. Call on 6570- 2284 for opening hours