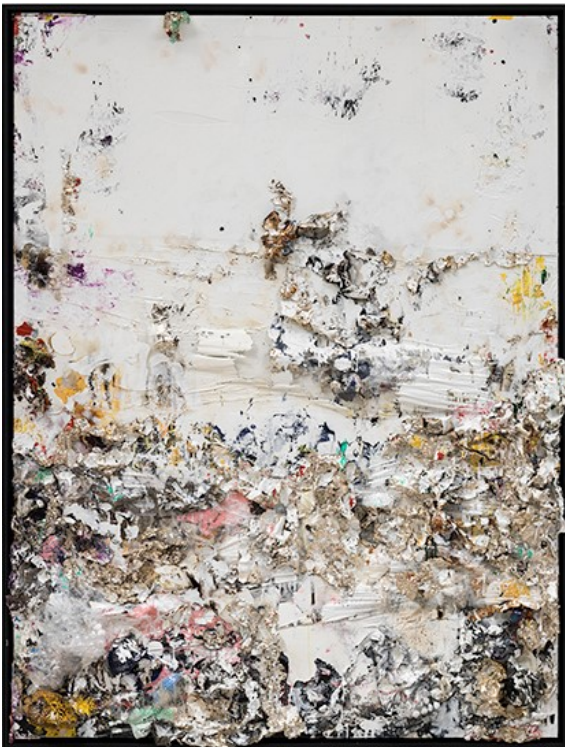




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## Pearl Lam Galleries presents Mr Chow aka Zhou Yinghua

January 6, 2014 Asia, What's On



Michael Chow, the famous restaurateur behind 'Mr Chow' Chinese restaurants worldwide, will present his first ever solo exhibition, *Recipe for a Painter*, opening 13 January 2014 in Hong Kong at Pearl Lam Galleries.

For Chow, who paints under the pseudonym 'Yinghua' – his Chinese name, the exhibition represents a return to his cultural heritage after a break of more than 50 years during which he became a prominent figure within the US art scene, as well as a serious collector of contemporary art. For Pearl Lam Yinghua's work embodies their continuous desire to stimulate cross-cultural dialogue and cultural exchange between East and West.

Recipe for a Painter will present a series of very large-scale mixed-media canvases, each created using a wide variety of precious and household materials including gold leaf and silver, trash, acrylic paint, melted metal, and other found items. Yinghua describes his artistic practice as intrinsically linked to his cultural heritage and ongoing relationship with China; a country with which he has a complex history.

As a child Chow was forced to leave the country, sent to the UK for schooling when his parents preempted the Cultural Revolution under Chairman Mao. During this period Chow's father Zhou Xinfang, to this today considered one of China's most renowned and loved Beijing Opera or 'Jing Ju' performers, disappeared. Chow never saw him again, and only saw his mother once more when she came to visit him at school.

His work is a product of his cross-cultural inheritance and the post-war generation in which he grew up, his work referencing simultaneously Abstract Expressionism, Colour Field painting – and the associated consistency of form, and the landscape traditions of Chinese ink and calligraphy. The unique fusions in Yinghua's work are not restrained to cultural and artistic influences, the performative and the painterly instincts in the artist combine in the gestures expressed across his large-scale canvases. Yinghua believes that every detail in his work is its own universe that in turn filters into a powerful whole, the mature paintings he is exhibiting at Pearl Lam Galleries are the creative culmination of a lifetime of details.

"I love China. Although it was taken away from me at a very young age, it has remained with me for my entire life. Everything I have done or accomplished has been an attempt to reconnect with my culture. My father was a great artist, albeit in a different medium, so it is particularly humbling and gratifying to return as an artist to the place my heart has always called home." Mr Chow aka Zhou Yinghua.

"I have long held respect for Michael Chow in the many roles he holds in the international art scene, it is rare to find one man with such diverse friendships and multicultural ties across the world, and I am delighted to be presenting his long awaited return to painting after 50 years," said Pearl Lam, Founder of Pearl Lam Galleries.

#### Exhibition Dates

13 January–8 March, 2014

Monday–Saturday, 10am–7pm

Press Preview: Monday, 13 January, 2014, 3–5pm

Pearl Lam Galleries, 601–605, 6/F, Pedder Building, 12 Pedder Street, Central, Hong Kong