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## Pearl Lam Galleries(Singapore) inaugural exhibition:WHERE DOES IT ALL BEGIN? Contemporary Abstract Art in Asia and the West

Press release

**Venue**  
[Pearl Lam Galleries \(Singapore\) 艺术门 \(新加坡\)](#)

**Date**  
 2014.01.17 Fri - 2014.02.28 Fri

**Opening Exhibitions**  
 01/17/2014 18:00

**Address**  
 9 Lock Road #03-22, Gillman Barracks, Singapore 108937 (新加坡吉尔曼军营艺术区洛克路9号#03-22, 108937)

**Telephone**

**Opening Hours**  
 Tuesday - Saturday 11am - 7pm,  
 Sunday 12pm - 6pm. Closed on Mondays and Public Holidays (周二至周六 11am - 7pm, 周日 12am - 6pm, 周一及节假日闭馆)

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Zhu Jinshi, *Wooden Stick* (2013), Oil on canvas, 160 x 140 cm

Pearl Lam Galleries opens at Singapore's Gillman Barracks, marking its third space in Asia, presenting boundary-crossing inaugural exhibition

### WHERE DOES IT ALL BEGIN?

Contemporary Abstract Art in Asia and the West

Curated by Philip Dodd

Featuring works by Zhu Jinshi, Pat Steir, Christine Ay Tjoe, Su Xiaobai and Peter Peri

Exhibition Dates

17 January-28 February, 2014 Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-7pm; Sunday, 12-6pm

Press Preview: Thursday, 16 January, 2014, 3-5pm

Grand Opening Reception: Friday, 17 January, 2014, 6-8pm

Pearl Lam Galleries, 9 Lock Road, #3-22, Gillman Barracks, Singapore

Pearl Lam Galleries will open its third space in Asia at Singapore's Gillman Barracks on 17 January, 2014, to coincide with Art Stage Singapore. Complementing the critically acclaimed programmes of the existing Shanghai and Hong Kong spaces, the Singapore gallery has been strategically chosen to strengthen the core mission of the Collection to engage in cultural exchange and provide a platform for

Galleries, to engage in cultural exchange and provide a platform for rising and established talents from the West and East to meet, interact and engage.

This strategic location for Pearl Lam Galleries is also in line with and supportive of the city-state's ambitious aspiration to be the cultural hub of the region. Due to its geographical location, the Gallery will also have a special focus on Southeast Asian Art.

The space, housed within a heritage building at the Gillman Barracks Art Centre in Singapore, provides an ideal location for the Gallery: "Presenting contemporary art in a historical setting is in keeping with our locations in Shanghai and Hong Kong. We like the idea of the gallery being in a heritage space and bringing in the new and cutting edge. The location and building symbolises what we believe in—being rooted in the past and respecting local cultures while looking to the future," said the Galleries' founder Pearl Lam.

Ruoh Ling Keong, Acting Director of Pearl Lam Galleries Singapore, added: "I am thrilled to be part of a very dynamic team and look forward to building a dialogue and exchange between different cultures while respecting the Galleries' Asian roots. To have the gallery in Singapore, which is at the heart of Southeast Asia both geographically and symbolically, anchors the Galleries in the region and, without a doubt, demonstrates our commitment to the scene."

The opening exhibition Where does it all begin? Contemporary Abstract Art in Asia and the West provides a unique opportunity to see major artists from the USA and China, Europe and Indonesia, side by side, all exploring and revealing the power of abstract art today.

Curated by Philip Dodd, the acclaimed British arts writer and broadcaster, the exhibition explodes the myth that contemporary art from Asia is dependent on Western art, while revealing and celebrating the complex and ongoing dialogue between Western and Asian abstract art. The exhibition is mounted at a time when abstract art is becoming central again to the global art world after a period where conceptualism seemed to reign supreme.

Bridging the gap between East and West as well as across generations, Where does it all begin? Contemporary Abstract Art in Asia and the West will include works by a group of artists including Pat Steir, a major American abstract artist influenced by Chinese art and Taoism; two important Chinese artists Zhu Jinshi and Su Xiaobai, who both lived and studied in Germany and whose work is distinguished by their unique experiences, influences and emphasis on material; young British artist Peter Peri, whose works explore the tension between line and volume, figuration and abstraction, and art historical influences; and one of Indonesia's most prominent female artists, Christine Ay Tjoe, whose work is delicate to the point of fragility and reveals an internal world full of inner thoughts, melancholy, struggle, pain, and happiness.

#### **About Peter Peri**

Peter Peri (b. 1971, London, UK) graduated from Chelsea College of Art and Design, London in 2003. Peri's primary media are drawing, sculpture and painting. All of his works are specifically invested in the tension between line and volume, figuration and abstraction, and in the question of tradition and influence in Modernism. Peri's works on paper depict a range of forms, which coalesce into ambiguous architectural structures and volumes through an uncanny play of light and shadow redolent of Metaphysical painting. His paintings appear to trace an occult tinged geometric language—a Morse code of shifting lines and shapes—that might be used to describe the world in more elemental terms.

Peri's recent exhibitions include Art Now (2007), Tate Britain; Country 10 (2006), Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland; Classified: Contemporary British Art from the Tate Collection (2009), Tate Britain; and How to Improve the World, 60 years of British Art—Arts Council Collection, Hayward Gallery, London, UK. His work can be found in the permanent collections of Tate Modern, Saatchi Gallery, Victoria & Albert Museum, Arts Council of Great Britain Collection in UK; and UBS Funds, Kunsthalle Basel, in Switzerland.

#### **About Pat Steir**

Pat Steir (b. 1940, New Jersey, USA) attended the Pratt Institute in New York and Boston University College of Fine Arts. Her early work was loosely allied with Conceptual Art and Minimalism; however, her poured Waterfall paintings from the 1980s gained her acclaim. Profoundly influenced by Chinese painting traditions and techniques – especially the marks of the 8th and 9th century Yi-pin “ink-splashing” painters, mentorships from John Cage and Agnes Martin, and the harmony between man and nature espoused by Taoist philosophy, Steir considers elemental forces active participants in her work, intentionally removing herself from the action and allowing gravity, time, and the environment to determine the work’s result.

Her work is in the collections of Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Solomon R Guggenheim Museum, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Tate Gallery, London, UK; and many other national and international museums.

#### **About Su Xiaobai**

Su Xiaobai (b. 1949, Hubei, China) studied oil painting at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, and received a scholarship to study at the Dusseldorf National Art Academy in 1987. Subsequently, he moved to Germany in 1992 where he has been based ever since. Su’s solo exhibitions include Su Xiaobai (2013) at Pearl Lam Galleries in Hong Kong, Su Xiaobai (2011) at Another Gallery in Shanghai, Su Xiaobai Solo Exhibition (2010) at Raketenstation Hombroich in Germany, and The Dynasty of Colours (2009) at Langen Art Gallery in Germany. He has exhibited in museums, galleries, and art fairs in Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei, Singapore, Berlin, London, Düsseldorf and Moscow.

#### **About Christine Ay Tjoe**

Christine Ay Tjoe (b. 1973, Bandung, Indonesia) studied Printmaking and Graphic Art at the Bandung Institute of Technology and graduated in 1997. At present, she lives and works in Bandung, Indonesia. Ay Tjoe is one of Indonesia’s most prominent female contemporary artists. Starting out as a graphic artist, she experimented with dry-point technique. Her work is delicate to the point of fragility and reveals an internal world full of inner thoughts, melancholy, struggle, pain and happiness that seem to reflect her personality and personal life.

Ay Tjoe’s works have been widely exhibited at galleries and museums in Taipei, Singapore, Shanghai, Beijing, Hong Kong, New York, Miami, London, Paris, Melbourne, Sydney, Jakarta, and Bandung. She was awarded the SCMP Art Futures Prize at Hong Kong International Art Fair in 2009 and Top 5 Philip Morris Indonesian Art Award in 2011.

#### **About Zhu Jinshi**

Zhu Jinshi was born in Beijing, China in 1954. After completing an artist-in-residency in Germany and teaching in the Architecture Department at the Berlin Technical University, Zhu returned to Beijing, where he currently lives and works. He began painting abstract works in the late 1970s, and participated in the Stars (Xing Xing) group exhibition, the first avant-garde art exhibition after the Cultural Revolution. Zhu has exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions, including The Reality of Paint (2013) and Chinese Contemporary Abstract, 1980s until Present: MINDMAP (2012) at Pearl Lam Galleries, Hong Kong; Power and Jiangshan (2008) at Arario Gallery, Beijing; and On the Road (2002) at Prague City Museum, Czech Republic. Zhu’s work is represented in many private and public collections across the globe, including Canada where his rice paper installation The Tao of Xuan Paper (1997) is on permanent display at the Vancouver Art Gallery. He is also represented in many private and public collections worldwide.

#### **About Pearl Lam Galleries**

Founded by Pearl Lam, the Galleries’ mission is to stimulate cross-cultural dialogue and cultural exchange between the East and West by establishing distinct and rigorous programming in each of its gallery spaces in Hong Kong and Shanghai, as well as the Singapore gallery at Gilman Road, opening 17 January 2014.

gallery at Gillman Barracks, opening 17 January, 2014.

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

Pearl Lam Design shows works by established and emerging international designers including Maarten Baas, Mattia Bonetti, André Dubreuil, 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.

#### **About Pearl Lam**

Pearl Lam has been at the forefront of re-imagining China's cultural place in the world for almost two decades through Pearl Lam Galleries and through the China Art Foundation, a trust that she co-founded in 2008.

In Asia, where the cultural infrastructure is developing fast and in innovative ways, Pearl Lam Galleries in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Singapore stand out for its intellectual and cultural ambition.

Pearl Lam is also a collector, patron, and curator. As a curator, among many other exhibitions, she conceived and organised the critically acclaimed *Awakening: La France Mandarine*, an exhibition on the French influence on Chinese art, which was a central part of the 2004 French Year in China. As a patron, she has donated works to museums as various as the V&A, London; the Asia Art Society Museum, New York; the KW Institute, Berlin; the Museum of Art and Design, New York; and the Peabody Museum, Boston.

Originally from Hong Kong, Pearl lives between Shanghai, Hong Kong, and London, and never stays still for very long.

#### **About Philip Dodd**

Philip Dodd is the former Director of London's ICA, a curator, writer and award-winning BBC broadcaster. He co-curated the seminal *Spellbound: Art and Film* at London's Hayward Gallery, and has curated exhibitions with artists and architects from Yoko Ono to Rem Koolhaas, from Moscow to New York.

His writings on art range from essays for Tate to the best-selling *Relative Values: Art and Value*.

Dodd is credited with being one of the first in Britain to understand the importance of contemporary Chinese culture. In 1998, he took an exhibition to China of Young British Artists. The following year, he hosted a major exhibition of contemporary Chinese art and culture at the ICA in London.

He is chairman of Made in China (<http://www.madeinchinauk.com/>); chairman of the Advisory Board, Art 14 London; founder of the much-acclaimed Private Museum Forum at Art HK (where he was on the advisory board) and at Art 13 London.

#### **About Keong Ruoh Ling**

Ms. Keong Ruoh Ling is the Acting Director of Pearl Lam Galleries, Singapore. She has almost 15 years of experience in the contemporary art world. She was Head of Christie's Modern and Contemporary Southeast Asian Art department from 1999 to 2011 in Singapore. A native of Singapore, she has always worked in the region and has a personal relationship with many of the top artists and private collectors in Southeast Asia.

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