

# PearlLam Galleries

Shanghai

## QUOTIDIAN

Featuring works by Du Zhenjun, Inci Eviner, Golnaz Fathi, Gonkar Gyatso, Sayaka Ishizuka, Liu Yujie, Pan Jian, Ren Ri, Yinka Shonibare MBE, Su Dong Ping, Sinta Tantra, and Zhang Jian-Jun

Exhibition Dates 18 January–12 March, 2017 Monday–Sunday, 10am–7pm

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

Shanghai—Pearl Lam Galleries is delighted to present *Quotidian*, a group exhibition that strives to transcend the quotidian, or the ordinary, by questioning existing norms through continual artistic explorations. In turn, this exhibition aims to provoke audiences to re-experience seemingly familiar visuals in a different way. This exhibition features works by twelve contemporary artists: Du Zhenjun, Inci Eviner, Golnaz Fathi, Gonkar Gyatso, Sayaka Ishizuka, Liu Yujie, Pan Jian, Ren Ri, Yinka Shonibare MBE, Su Dong Ping, Sinta Tantra, and Zhang Jian-Jun. Quotidian can be mundane, trivial, and even obscure, but never pointless; it is a necessary condition, as people strive to break free of the everyday to achieve innovation and progress.

Selecting often overlooked objects, such as rice, cutlery, and thread from daily life as both the mediums and subjects of her creations, Japanese artist **Sayaka Ishizuka** (b. 1980) retells the stories of these “lived” objects and their owners. By collecting used items from her friends and community, Ishizuka connects the lives of people and individual experiences to create works that are, altogether universal.

Also exploring existential themes is Chinese artist **Ren Ri** (b. 1984) who allies with bees to construct hive sculptures, which are the direct result of his daily interaction with the insects. His latest work, *Hyperparallel* (2016), is an example of bees building their own circular-shaped beehives that grow against gravity inside man-made box frames.

Nature is a subject matter as old as time; Chinese artist **Pan Jian** (b. 1975) tirelessly paints forest scenes that best encapsulate his mood. Unlike his previous works that engulf viewers with a sense of psychological dislocation, his latest paintings, with their undimmed colour scheme, provide audiences with a dreamlike vision of his emotions.

Also turning inwards for inspiration, **Liu Yujie** (b. 1984) focuses on indoor landscapes staged with her imagination. Her meticulous attention to composition, tones, and geometric shapes reflects her enthusiastic penchant for blurring the line between commonplace scenes and abstraction.

British-Balinese artist **Sinta Tantra** (b. 1979) explores dimensions in her paintings with colour and geometric shapes. She embraces bright colours from her Southeast Asian heritage and “collages” these into a structure where pictorial and physical spaces meet.

Also inspired by multiple cultures is British-Nigerian artist **Yinka Shonibare MBE** (b. 1962). His sculpture *Girl Balancing Knowledge* (2015) ties the artist’s childhood memories of Nigeria with his education in the UK by depicting a female dressed in his trademark “African” fabric clothing, which was actually first inspired by Indonesian design and mass-produced by the Dutch for sale in West Africa.

Synthesising modern daily lives with Tibetan culture, **Gonkar Gyatso** (b. 1961) mixes pop elements with Buddhist iconography to demonstrate the influence of global mass media on the shaping of our identity. In *13,472 Prayers* (2015), Gyatso conjures up a balanced world where spirituality (the circle) is perfectly contained within the universe (the outer square). Yet, a closer look would enable audiences to realise that the mandala is actually composed of 13,472 stickers.

As one of the earliest Chinese abstract artists, **Zhang Jian-Jun** (b. 1955) uses water as a symbol of his understanding of time and existence. From his *Pond* series (1990s) that celebrates the versatility of form to his current series *First Drop of Water* (2015–16) that connects the past with the present, Zhang is in a continuous pursuit to visualise Daoist beliefs.

**Su Dong Ping** (b. 1958) is another artist whose works are deeply rooted in Chinese philosophy. His background in traditional calligraphy is reflected in his abstract paintings. By repetitively painting on the same surface, Su underlines a momentary process that is filled with reconstruction and surprises.

A routine, or rather a meditative journey, is often required before spontaneity can be generated. Iranian calligrapher and artist **Golnaz Fathi** (b. 1972) first developed her artistic style when she was conducting the warm-up exercise practiced before writing calligraphy. Her free-spirited lines that mirror her impromptu gestures and rhythm are in contrast with Persian calligraphy's standard for precision.

Meanwhile, Turkish artist **Inci Eviner** (b. 1956) regards drawing as part of her daily practice as she creates figures that are hybrids of her surroundings and imagination. The often uncanny or animalistic characters shadow the artist's concerns on social issues.

Chinese artist **Du Zhenjun** (b. 1961) holds an even more pessimistic view towards the future by envisioning a dystopia full of current problems, such as pollution, over-population, and consumerism, in his digital photography. Highlighting this narrative with the biblical story *Tower of Babel*, Du depicts not only world problems, but also the spiritual lost among all of us.

## About the Artists

### DU ZHENJUN

Du Zhenjun (b. 1961, Shanghai, China) graduated from the University of Shanghai's School of Fine Arts in 1986 and the Regional School of Fine Arts in Rennes, France in 1998. His recent solo exhibitions include *Babel World* (2015), Pearl Lam Galleries, Shanghai, China; *Babel Empire* (2014), Château de Chambord (Château de Lunéville), France; *Babel-world/Du Zhenjun* (2013), ZKM | Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, Germany; *La Tour de Babel* (2012), Maison de la Culture de Metz, Metz, France; and *Interactivités* (2010), L'institut franco-japonais de Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan. He currently lives in Shanghai and Paris.

### INCI EVINER

Inci Eviner (b. 1956, Ankara, Turkey) graduated from the Painting Department of the National Academy of Fine Arts, Istanbul in 1980 and later obtained her PhD from the Fine Arts Faculty of the Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul, Turkey. Eviner has shown her work in solo and group exhibitions worldwide. She has been invited to participate in numerous biennials including Istanbul, Venice, Taiwan, Thessaloniki, Shanghai, and Busan. Among the museums and institutions where her works have been exhibited are The Drawing Center (New York), the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary (Vienna), the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, and Palais des Beaux-Arts de Lille. She now lives and works in Istanbul, Turkey.

### GOLNAZ FATHI

Golnaz Fathi (b. 1972, Tehran, Iran) is one of only a tiny handful of women trained to the highest level within the discipline of traditional Persian calligraphy. An influential member of a currently thriving generation of artists in Iran over the last twenty years, Fathi appropriates the form, practice, and technique of calligraphy in modern media. Her works are in the collections of The British Museum (London), The Devi Art Foundation (New Delhi), The Islamic Arts Museum (Kuala Lumpur), The Asian

Civilisations Museum (Singapore), and Carnegie Mellon University (Doha). Fathi currently lives and works between Tehran and Paris.

#### GONKAR GYATSO

Gonkar Gyatso (b. 1961, Lhasa, Tibet) moved to London in the late 90s and attained his Master of Art in Fine Art at the Chelsea School of Art and Design. Before that, he studied traditional Chinese painting in Beijing as well as Thangka painting (traditional Tibetan scroll painting) in Dharamsala. His works have been exhibited in galleries and museums around the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), the Boston Museum of Fine Arts (Boston, Massachusetts), Tel Aviv Museum of Art (Israel), The City Gallery (New Zealand), The Institute of Modern Art (Australia), the National Art Museum of China (Beijing), the Glasgow Gallery of Modern Art (Scotland), the Courtauld Institute of Art (London), and the Burger Collection (Switzerland). Additionally, he has participated in the 53rd Venice Biennial (Italy), the 6th Asia Pacific Triennial in Brisbane (Australia), and the 17th Sydney Biennale (Australia).

#### SAYAKA ISHIZUKA

Sayaka Ishizuka (b. 1980, Shizuoka, Japan) graduated from the Painting Department of Joshibi University of Art and Design in 2004. In 2009, Ishizuka participated in the Wellington Asia Residency Exchange artist-in-residence programme in Wellington, New Zealand. She has held several solo exhibitions in Tokyo and Kanagawa, Japan, and her work has been shown widely around Japan in group exhibitions, as well as the Setouchi Triennial and the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial. Ishizuka currently lives and works in Oiso, Kanagawa, Japan.

#### LIU YUJIE

Liu Yujie (b. 1984, Chongqing, China) earned both her BA (2006) and MA (2009) from the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute, where she majored in oil painting for both degrees. Her recent solo exhibitions include *Trajectory—The Structure of Time* (2016), Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China; *Dimension and Trajectory* (2016), Amy Li Gallery, Beijing, China; and *Grand Views from Small Images* (2013), L-Art Gallery, Chengdu, China. The artist currently works and lives in Beijing.

#### PAN JIAN

Pan Jian (b. 1975, Shandong, China) received his BA, majoring in oil painting, from Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts in 2001. His recent solo exhibitions include *Shadow of Light* (2015) and *The Edge of the Shadow* (2013), 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Hong Kong, China; *Strange Image—Pan Jian* (2010), Today Art Museum, Beijing, China; and *The End of the World* (2008), Beijing Space, Beijing, China. Pan currently lives and works in Xi'an and Beijing.

#### REN RI

Ren Ri (b. 1984, Harbin, China) studied Fine Art at Tsinghua University and then received his Masters at Saint-Petersburg Herzen State University, Russia. He has a PhD in Fine Art from the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing. Ren Ri has been featured in exhibitions including *Ren Ri: Yuansu Projects*, Pearl Lam Galleries, Hong Kong, China; *Kaiserring Stipendiat 2015: Ren Ri*, Mönchehaus Museum, Goslar, Germany; and *Fame Di Terra* (2012), Amy-D Arte Spazio, Milan, Italy. Ren also received the Kaiserring Award in 2015. He currently works and lives in Beijing.

#### YINKA SHONIBARE MBE

Yinka Shonibare MBE (b. 1962, London, UK) moved to Lagos, Nigeria at the age of three. He returned to London to study Fine Art, first at Central Saint Martins College and then at Goldsmiths College, where he received his MFA. Shonibare was a Turner prize nominee in 2004 and was also awarded the decoration of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire or MBE. Shonibare's works are included in prominent collections internationally, including the Tate Collection (London), Victoria and Albert Museum (London), National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institute (Washington, D.C.),

Museum of Modern Art (New York), National Gallery of Canada (Ottawa), Moderna Museet (Stockholm), and National Gallery of Modern Art in Rome (Italy).

## SU DONG PING

Su Dong Ping (b. 1958, Liaoning, China) taught painting and art history for more than 20 years after graduating from the department of oil painting at Lu Xun Academy of Fine Arts. His recent solo exhibitions include *Landscapes of the Heart—The Abstract Art of Su Dong Ping* (2015), Pearl Lam Galleries, Shanghai, China, and *Instant Measure: Paintings by Su Dongping* (2015), Inside-Out Art Museum, Beijing, China. He currently lives and works in Shenyang and Beijing, China.

## SINTA TANTRA

London and Bali-based British-Balinese artist Sinta Tantra (b. 1979, New York, USA) graduated with a BA in Fine Art (First Class Honours) from the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London, UK in 2003 and a Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art from the Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK in 2006. She went on to receive a PhD in Higher Education Teaching from University of the Arts London in 2010. A recipient of many awards, including the Deutsche Bank Award and the British Council's International Development Award, Tantra has recently been awarded the prestigious Bridget Riley Fellowship at The British School at Rome—the first fellowship of its kind which focuses on drawing. Tantra's work is in the UK Government Art Collection, as well as private international collections.

## ZHANG JIAN-JUN

Zhang Jian-Jun (b. 1955, Shanghai, China) received his graduate degree in fine arts from the Art Department of the Shanghai Drama Institute in 1978, and he moved to the United States in 1989. His work has been collected by major collections such as the Brooklyn Museum (New York), San Francisco Asian Art Museum (California), M+ Museum (Hong Kong), Guangdong Museum of Art (China), Shanghai Art Museum (China), and Yuz Museum (China). Currently, Zhang is a professor at New York University, Shanghai. He lives and works in both Shanghai and New York City.

## 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 synthesise 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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