

PearlLam Galleries

Hong Kong

Accidents [Part I]

Featuring works by An Zongde, Kim Tschang-Yeul, Ren Ri, Carlos Rolón, and Su Xiaobai

Exhibition Dates 18 January–23 June, 2020

Monday–Saturday, 10am–7pm

Venue Pearl Lam Galleries, 6/F, Pedder Building, 12 Pedder Street, Central, Hong Kong

Hong Kong—Pearl Lam Galleries is delighted to present *Accidents [Part 1]*, the first of a two-part group exhibition at the Pedder Building gallery, featuring artwork by five artists: Ren Ri (b. 1984), An Zongde (b. 1957), Carlos Rolón (b. 1970), Su Xiaobai (b. 1949), and Kim Tschang-Yeul (b. 1929).

Accidents examines the margins of meaning or 意 and investigates the potentials that lie beyond the original intention of the artist. The making of art often relies on the creator to remain faithful to a predetermined production process in the hope that it would result in something meaningful in the end. This exhibition deviates from such a set narrative and focuses on bringing out the subconscious and imaginary aspects of art. It questions to what extent is the artist conscious of his original intention. Can an art object be the inevitable outcome of a series of uncontrollable and unforeseen accidents that not only exist in their own right, but also gaze back at the author, asking him/her squarely how the piece is made in the first place? Such a relational reading downplays the importance of authorship and shifts focus towards the viewers and their active participation, giving art its meaning.

In this exhibition, five artists from different generations and cultural backgrounds experiment with different materials and mediums to reveal the relational aspects of art. *Accidents* celebrates the autonomous and alchemic qualities of artistic practice; a series of accidents turns into an alternative reality not bound by any specific cultural or political circumstances. Using nature as a reference, these artists incorporate natural phenomena into their practices and surrender control to a far greater force. They translate what is inherently idealistic into something artificial by situating viewers in an ambiguous space. Preoccupied with the unpredictable properties of different materials, they are all interested in the possibilities of automatism, working laboriously with non-figurative means of expression to reflect on what is left by our conspicuous daily consumption. In short, their common ulterior motive is to convey higher spiritual ideals (意境) through their art to deepen our metaphysical understanding with society at large.

Ren Ri works in the unique medium of beeswax, creating, in collaboration with the insects, mesmerizing sculptures that document his intimate experience with bees as both an artist and a beekeeper. He manipulates the movement of bees and the formation of honeycombs to create metaphysical and hybrid sculptures, which investigate the force of nature and consequences of human intervention. Ren states, "The duality of interactions between the human body and the bees is not simply in the physical sense; more importantly, it hints at an interrelated force and its counterforce."

The objects of **An Zongde's** *Le Temps* series of works are worn and faded through a process of weathering, revealing the temporal nature of worldly matter. The communication between time and

substance creates a projection of an idea, with scenery that is beyond logic and expectations. The artist follows the philosophy of “always finding materials by chance” and seeks art in nature and in daily life. Through the beautiful passage of nature and intervention of everyday objects, the artist intends to capture the coexistence of nature and civilization.

Born to a Puerto Rican family and raised in Chicago, **Carlos Rolón** bore witness to how first-generation immigrants adapted to new American middle-class lifestyles. These families brought the diaspora into the homes by decorating walls and furniture with exotic colours, textures and patterns to create a sense of identity, comfort and, ultimately, an aspirational lifestyle. It is from here that Rolón's present characteristic incorporation of custom culture, faux luxury and excessiveness in his art originate.

Su Xiaobai has developed a sensuous yet rigorous art that defies classification, and yet whose own chosen medium, lacquer, is steeped in Chinese history. His works are mystical, defiantly sculptural while exquisitely painted. Su's gently curved paintings are an exploration into the cosmic and the meditative; they serve as portals into a complex subjectivity. Rather than depict other objects, his art engages with the idea of being itself. Su invites the audience into a sublime unconsciousness where pigments and skeins of resin form the ground for contemplation.

Kim Tschang-Yeul's “water drop” paintings incorporate elements of photorealism and abstract expressionism, straddling an ambiguous space between abstraction and reality. For Kim, water is the origin of all things. Kim believes that water and water drops exist anywhere around us, including in space and time, but are also vulnerable and exposed to an infinite emptiness. Over the decades, we see the water drops become a path through which Kim searches for an infinite revelation.

About Pearl Lam Galleries

Pearl Lam Galleries is a driving force within Asia's contemporary art scene. Founded in 2005, the Gallery plays a vital role in stimulating international dialogue and cross-cultural exchange between East and West.

Following a rigorous programme, Pearl Lam Galleries presents museum-quality exhibitions that re-evaluate and challenge perceptions of cultural practice in Asia. With a thoughtfully balanced roster of Chinese and international artists, the Gallery is strategic in its curation, positioning itself as an educator.

The Gallery maintains two spaces in Hong Kong: one in the historic Pedder Building and another in the recently erected H Queen's. The Shanghai space is situated in the heart of the Bund district.

With a team of international staff, Pearl Lam Galleries' reach is global, having presentations at major international art fairs including The Armory Show, Art Cologne, Art Basel Hong Kong, Frieze Masters, and West Bund Art and Design.

Press Enquiries

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