

# PearlLam Galleries

## DUST FROM THE HEART: Five Chinese Women Artists and Their Journeys

Featuring works by Xiao Lu, Juju Sun, He Chengyao, Cui Xiuwen, and Cai Jin

### Exhibition Dates

12 September-11 October, 2012

Monday-Saturday, 10am-7pm

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

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**HONG KONG**– Pearl Lam Galleries is pleased to present the exhibition, **Dust from the Heart: Five Chinese Women Artists and Their Journeys**, which reveals the personal journeys of five female artists over the last 30 years of dramatic change in China. Opening to the public on **Wednesday, 12 September**, the varied narratives of each woman artist are presented through their works ranging from video and installation to photography and painting. The exhibition aims to explore each of their reactions to life in the unique historical, social and cultural context of contemporary China.

**Dust from the Heart** presents:

- **Xiao Lu:** Born in 1962, one of the early rebels of Chinese art, Xiao Lu shot to fame after she fired a loaded gun at her work *Dialogue* at China's first institutional government-sponsored exhibition of experimental art *China Avant/Garde* in Beijing in 1989. Xiao Lu's works are generally performance-based and a direct response to her life, romances and her emotions.
- **Juju Sun:** Born in 1973, Juju Sun's abstract landscapes are composed of vibrant colours, forms and patterns in celebration of Mother Nature, the cycle of life and the seasons, procreation, beauty, as well as woman as mother and protector.
- **He Chengyao:** Born in 1964, controversial performance artist He Chengyao's inspiration is drawn from her perceived place in society and belief that sexual disparity, discrimination in social status and the traditional sexual division of labour are important social issues.
- **Cui Xiuwen:** Born in 1970, the artist's haunting videos and photography analyse the status of women in modern China, cultural and sexual stereotyping and their functions.
- **Cai Jin:** Born in 1965, the artist's drawings, paintings and installations revolve around themes of feminine sexuality and fertility—a motif she has used since 1991 is the leaf of a plant called *meirenjiao*, with *meiren* meaning beautiful woman—as well as human fragility, death and decay.

The exhibition title references the Chinese proverb *Yi Chen Bu Ran* / 一塵不染 literally meaning “dustfree” and commonly used to describe an individual free from anguish, grief and suffering. By exploring each artist's different paths and what constitutes “dust” in their hearts, the exhibition aims to broaden the dialogue on the complicated history of women in China alongside historical, political and cultural realities.

Pearl Lam, founder of Pearl Lam Galleries said, “These five artists each come from varying family backgrounds and demonstrate in their own manner how women artists are willing to openly put forward their own personal sensibilities and experiences. I am thrilled to be presenting their works—providing an exceptional insight into the workings of female artists in China today, where their journeys reflect the economic, social, and political changes throughout Chinese history. I believe it will stir great interest in all who visit the exhibition.”

An accompanying catalogue will include essays by Melissa Chiu, Zhu Qi, Philip Dodd and Gao Minglu, each providing a further exploration of art and womanhood in China.

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## About the Artists

### Xiao Lu

Xiao Lu was born in Hangzhou, China in 1962 and is now based in Beijing. She worked at the Shanghai Oil Painting and Sculpture Institute after graduating from the Subsidiary School of the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing in 1984 and Oil Painting department at Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts (now China Academy of Fine Arts), Hangzhou in 1988. Her exhibitions include *Les Infantes Terribles VII: Video Art and Pop Culture* (2012) at Primo Piano Living Gallery in Italy, *Forces* (2011) at 10 Chancery Lane Gallery in Hong Kong, *Half the Sky: Women in the New Art of China* (2011) at Leonard Pearlstein Gallery and Drexel University Gallery in Pennsylvania, *Art—Look or Listen?* (2009) at Soobin Art International in Singapore, *New Wave: The Birth of Chinese Contemporary Art* (2007) at UCCA in Beijing, *Inside Out: New Chinese Art* (2001) in New York, San Francisco and Seattle, and *China/Avant-Garde* (1989) at the National Art Museum in Beijing. Her works are also found in worldwide collections, including Taikang Life (China), MoMA, New York (USA), White Rabbit Contemporary Art Collection (Australia), Museum of Contemporary Art (Singapore) and Da Xiang Art Space (Taiwan).

### Juju Sun

Juju Sun was born in Jiangxi, China in 1973. She studied at the Ottawa School of Art and under Optical Art Master Larry Poons at the Art Student's League of New York. Now, she lives and works in New York and Beijing. Her exhibitions include a solo show at Today Art Museum in Beijing in 2012, *Juju Sun Recent Paintings* (2011) at Jawspace Gallery in New York, *Not Afraid to Be Beautiful: Juju Sun's Recent Paintings* (2010) at Gallery Gora in Montreal and *Pure Abstraction: Juju Sun* (2007) at 8th FL Artists Center at 481 Broadway in New York City. Sun has also received numerous awards including at the World Peace Art Competition at Houston University, Texas (2002), 1st Award at SBAA 45th Annual Members' Competition, New York (2002), Merit Scholarship, Art Students League of New York, New York (2000), Golden Prize from Canada World Artists Association (1998) and Golden Prize by National Art Swan Expo (1995). Her works are also found in collections including the World Art Center (USA), US China Contemporary Art Fund (USA), FDM Gallery (Italy) and E.W.B Holding Group (USA).

### He Chengyao

He Chengyao was born in Chongqing, China in 1964 and now lives and works in Beijing. She graduated from the Art Education Department at the Sichuan Fine Art Institute, Chongqing in 1989 and studied in the Modern Art Seminar at China Central Academy of Fine Art from 2000 to 2011. Her solo exhibitions include *He Chengyao: Solo Exhibition* (2011) at Galleria Labirint in Lublin, *This Is It: He Chengyao's Solo Photography Exhibition* (2010) at Alice Chilton Gallery in New York, *He Chengyao Performance Photo Exhibition* (2004) at Soobin Art Gallery in Singapore and *Performance Art: He Chengyao* (2003) at One World Art Center, Beijing. She has also exhibited in group exhibitions such as *Infr'Action Paris—International Festival of Performance Art* (2011), France, The 5th Biennial of Performance Art (2010) in Canada, Art Basel Miami (2009), The 2nd Biennale of Contemporary Art (2009) in Greece, and *Yi Pai: 30 Years of Chinese Abstraction* (2008) in Palma, Barcelona and Madrid (2008).

## Cui Xiuwen

Cui Xiuwen was born in Harbin, China in 1970 and now lives and works in Beijing. She graduated from the Fine Arts School of Northeast Normal University, Changchun in 1990 and Beijing's Central Academy of Fine Arts in 1996. Her solo exhibitions include *Restart: Cui Xiuwen and Miao Xiaochun: Dual-Video Exhibition* (2012) at Eli Klein Fine Art in New York City, *Existential Emptiness: Cui Xiuwen's Solo Exhibition* (2012) at Kiang Gallery in Georgia, *Spiritual Realm: Cui Xiuwen Solo Exhibition* (2010) at Today Art Museum in Beijing, *Quarter: Cui Xiuwen Solo Exhibition* (2007) at Florence Museum in Italy (2007) and *Cui Xiuwen: Kan Xuan Dual-Video Exhibition* (2004) at the Contemporary Art Museum of Bordeaux. Her works have also been exhibited at numerous museums such as Palazzo Reale Museum in Milan (2009), Museum Maillol in Paris (2008), MUMOK Museum Moderner Kunst in Vienna (2007), Tate Modern Museum in London (2004) and the Pompidou in Paris (2003).

## Cai Jin

Cai Jin was born in Anhui, China in 1965. Now based in Beijing and Tianjin, she holds a teaching position at the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts. She previously lectured at the Central Academy of Fine Arts after graduating from the Fine Art Department of Anhui Normal University in Wu Hu, China in 1986, and the Oil Painting Department at the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing in 1991. Cai's solo exhibitions include *Cai Jin* (2012) at the National Art Museum of China in Beijing, *Red Tide: Cai Jin* (2011) at Galerie PICI in Seoul, *Cai Jin—Eros in Red* (2005) at Hanart TZ Gallery in Hong Kong, *Beauty Banana Series: The Art of Cai Jin* (2003) at Goedhuis Contemporary in New York and *Banana Plants Paintings* (1999) at Alexander Ochs Galleries in Berlin. She has also exhibited widely in museums and galleries in Beijing, Shanghai, New York, Taipei, Salzburg, Lodz, Berlin, Seoul and London.

## Pearl Lam Galleries

Pearl Lam started exhibiting and promoting Chinese contemporary art and design in 1993 in Hong Kong. Currently, Pearl Lam Galleries consists of two spaces in Shanghai: a Fine Art Gallery and special project space; and the recently-launched gallery in Hong Kong. Pearl Lam Galleries will also open a new design gallery in Shanghai and a major space at Gillman Barracks in Singapore in 2013.

Presenting an exhibition program of the highest quality, Pearl Lam Galleries has championed the promotion and re-evaluation of the philosophy, perceptions and aesthetics of Chinese art for almost 20 years. From an early stage, popular touring shows such as *Awakening: La France Mandarine*, the French influence on Chinese Art (2004-06) characterised the exhibition program with their intercultural dialogue and dynamic work by international artists from established and emerging markets. Exhibiting Chinese artists such as Lan Zhenghui, Li Tianbing, Wang Dongling, Zhang Huan, Zheng Chongbin, and Zhu Jinshi reinterpret traditions, fuse cross-cultural influences and examine China today. The exhibition program also presents major solo exhibitions of international artists stimulating cross-cultural dialogue and cultural exchange between China and the rest of the world.

Pearl Lam Galleries has also tirelessly promoted design as an art form in China. Pearl Lam has funded an artist-in-residence program for artists and designers across the globe. Pearl Lam Design shows works by established and emerging international designers including André Dubreuil, Maarten Baas, Mattia Bonetti, 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.

## Pearl Lam Galleries Hong Kong

Pearl Lam Galleries, Asia's most dynamic art gallery dedicated to Chinese and international contemporary art and design, holds a 340sqm gallery located on the 6th floor of the historic Grade II listed Pedder Building, alongside Gagosian, Ben Brown and Hanart TZ, at the heart of Hong Kong's growing contemporary art scene.

The Hong Kong gallery programme features both fine art and design exhibitions to complement the existing programs of the Shanghai galleries. It will continue to support young emerging artists such as Tsang Kin-Wah. The gallery will also bring solo shows by major international artists to Hong Kong including Jenny Holzer and Yinka Shonibare in 2013.

Pearl Lam Galleries in Hong Kong will further build the Galleries' long-standing ethos for presenting an exhibition program of the very highest quality, collaborating with emerging and established artists and renowned curators, and promoting cross-cultural and multidisciplinary art from both Asia and the West.

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## Press Enquiries

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