

Pearl Lam Galleries Hong Kong SOHO launches with the inaugural exhibition Ren Ri: Yuansu Projects



Left: Ren Ri b. 1984, **Yuansu Series #6-47** (detail), 2014–5, Acrylic glass, natural beeswax
Right: **Yuansu Series #6-14**, 2013–4, Acrylic glass, natural beeswax, 40 x 40 x 40 cm

Exhibition Dates

11 March–22 April, 2015

Extended hours during ABHK: 13–17 March, 9am–9pm; Reg. hours: daily, noon–7pm

Pearl Lam Galleries Hong Kong SOHO

Shop No. 1, G/F & 1/F, SOHO 189, 189 Queen's Road West, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

Hong Kong—Pearl Lam Galleries is delighted to announce the opening of its second gallery space in Hong Kong, which will be dedicated to the promotion of emerging artists, as well as established and up-and-coming international designers. The SOHO gallery's inaugural show, coinciding with the third edition of Art Basel in Hong Kong, will be a solo exhibition of unique beeswax sculptures by Beijing-based artist Ren Ri, curated by David Ho Yeung Chan.

The SOHO gallery will be located in one of Hong Kong's most vibrant and fast-developing areas, and aims to be a key proponent in the rise of this new cultural and creative hub in the city. Through an exciting and relevant contemporary art and design programme, the new gallery will support and enhance the art scene at a local, regional, and international level.

The new ground and first floor space at SOHO 189 will allow Pearl Lam Galleries to better achieve its mission of creating a platform for artists from all countries, regardless of age or experience, to show their work to a wider audience. Emerging artists do not necessarily have to be young artists. The Galleries also supports mid-career artists who may not have previously received the recognition they deserve. At the same time, the space will play a significant role in furthering the Galleries' existing design programme. The SOHO gallery will open ten exhibitions per year with two of them being design shows by international designers.

Ren Ri (b. 1984) works in the unique medium of beeswax, creating, in collaboration with the insects, mesmerising 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. The show, which features 40 previously unseen works, will be the first time his works are shown on a major scale.

The exhibition will focus on two distinctive series of artworks shown in separate spaces: *Yuansu I: The Origin of Geometry* (2007), which incorporates maps into the make-up of the beeswax, and *Yuansu II*, in which Ren has created a series of stunning geometrical sculptures by manipulating bee behaviour. Ren places a queen bee in the middle of a box, while the worker bees start to build natural beehives around her. Every seven days, a reference to the seven days of creation, Ren randomly changes the position of the box, like rolling dice, to create a living object. These organic sculptures embody a new belief system, one that symbolises new metaphysical qualities and forms of life itself.

“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.”
—Ren Ri, Artist

“I have long been a major supporter of emerging artists and international designers, nurturing their careers and bringing them into a global focus. The second space will give further scope to this dedication, allowing the Galleries to champion artists who deserve the opportunity to be seen on a major platform. I am excited to be opening this programme with a unique exhibition of 40 works by the up-and-coming Beijing artist Ren Ri, and am eager for the public response.” —Pearl Lam, Founder and Director of Pearl Lam Galleries.

About Ren Ri

Ren Ri (b. 1984, Harbin, China) studied Fine Art at Tsinghua University before receiving his Masters at Saint-Petersburg Herzen State University in Russia. He also holds a PhD in Fine Art from Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing.

Ren Ri's art is easily recognisable because of a very special medium he uses: beeswax. He first started beekeeping in 2006 and several years later began to create three series of art pieces fully made of beeswax: *Yuansu I, II and III*. *Yuan* means element, while *su* means mold—*Yuansu* can be translated as ‘a comprehension of the gestalt of life’. The artist believes his sculptures represent the truth of how humans interact with nature, which involves harmony, destruction, molding, and interference, and can result in unpredictable, sometimes volatile, but sometimes wondrous results.

Ren Ri's exhibitions include Art Taipei (2014), Taipei, Taiwan; West Bund Art & Design (2014), Shanghai, China; *Fusion Convergence* (2014), T Museum, Hangzhou, China; *Fame Di Terra* (2012), Milan, Italy; 6th Art Laguna Exhibition (2012), Venice, Italy; and *Carve & New Media* (2007), 798 Art District, Beijing, China.

About David Ho Yeung Chan

David Ho Yeung Chan is a curator based in Hong Kong and Shanghai. With Pearl Lam Galleries, Chan has curated *Lei Hong: Non-Geometric Study* (2012), *Tsang Kin-Wah: Ecce Homo Trilogy I* (2012), *Fictional Recoveries* (2012), *Su Xiaobai* (2013), *Déjà Disparu* (2013), *After Time* (2014), and *Embodied* (2014). He holds an MA from the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College, New York, USA.

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.

Contemporary Chinese Abstract art is heavily represented in the Galleries roster. Influential 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, Jim Lambie and Yinka Shonibare MBE (RA) 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.

Press Enquiries

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