

PearlLam Galleries

Hong Kong SOHO

Street Art Community Project 'Hidden Street'



Project Dates

10 August–11 September, 2015

Monday–Saturday, noon–7pm; Sunday, noon–5pm

Pearl Lam Galleries Hong Kong SOHO

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

Hong Kong—Pearl Lam Galleries SOHO proudly presents *Hidden Street*, its first community project, featuring nine Hong Kong-based street artists: 4get, Anny, Bao, Cath Love, Felipe Wong, Hadrian Lam, Peter Yuill, Sinic, and Uns. The artists will transform the gallery space into a street art corner that reflects Hong Kong local culture. From 10–13 August, the Hong Kong public will be invited to the gallery to view and participate in the creation of 'live paintings' through interactions with the artists. Visitors are encouraged to share the artists' 'hidden street art' images on social media. On 14 August, there will be an opening party in the evening to celebrate the paintings' completion. From 15 August–11 September, the gallery will present three artist talks, a talk by local indie band lead singer and illustrator Jan Curious, a youth workshop for ages 10–16, and screenings of *On the Road*, a street art travel documentary, which are all open to the public to make this a true community event. The gallery space with the completed street art installation will also be open for public viewing during this period.

As street art gains popularity around the world, Hong Kong street art culture has also been on the rise, as seen in *Wipe Out*, a recent exhibition by French street artist Invader at PMQ, and the 'HKwalls' street art festival. Street art engages explicitly with its environment. Artists can bring awareness to social issues or just simply brighten a dull wall and elicit an instantaneous reaction. This community engagement is what Pearl Lam Galleries SOHO hopes to achieve by inviting nine Hong Kong based street artists, who each play an important role in the local street art scene, to take over the gallery space. These artists have been chosen for the project as their works have strong connections with Sai Ying Pun and Sheung Wan, the areas that surround the Galleries. Their works are scattered around these neighbourhoods and have been mapped out by the Galleries for audiences to explore.

Sai Ying Pun is one of the older areas of Hong Kong Island with a rich multicultural history. Known as the "Western Encampment", it was where the British military settled upon arrival in the early 1800s. It was also home to mainland Chinese immigrants and Europeans, who were assigned their own areas above High Street. Nowadays, Sai Ying Pun is a trendy up-and-coming neighbourhood known for its unique art scene, restaurants, and nightlife. As a pioneering Hong Kong art gallery in the area, Pearl Lam Galleries SOHO is dedicated to the promotion of emerging artists and designers, as well as established international designers. The Galleries is organising this project to emphasise art as a communal experience, and to bring attention to the talented street artists of Hong Kong.

To celebrate the completion of the works, a reception will be held on 14 August, 6–8pm. Guests will be able to create their own special edition *Hidden Street* T-shirt by participating in the DIY screen printing T-shirt workshop presented by PrintHouse Hong Kong.

Pearl Lam Galleries will be running an art campaign throughout the entire project period. Visitors are invited to draw inspiration from the Sai Ying Pun neighbourhood and the art project to create their own artwork at the gallery. Visitors will be asked to post their work on Instagram before the end of the project on 11 September, as five lucky participants will have the opportunity to receive an exclusive original artwork by one of the exhibiting street artists. Entries should contain the hashtags #PearlLamGalleries, #HiddenStreet, #hkstreetart, #PearllamgalleriesHKSoHo, and #Soho189, for the chance to win this amazing prize.

About the Artists

4get, a young artist who started creating street art since 2003, combines his experience as an artist from England and Hong Kong to create a vibe and flow understood only by the city.

Anny, born in Macao, received her Bachelor of Media Communications in Melbourne. Interning as an illustrator and graphics designer opened doors for her in the world of visual communications. Anny's current practice furthers her exploration of where she has come from, as she experiments with a wider range of visual platforms.

Bao, a young self-taught artist, started to work as a street artist in 2014. Everything that she encounters has the potential to inspire her. Her works have been shown in different countries, including Australia, Italy, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Cath Love was born in Bangkok in 1984. She studied visual communication at the University of Newcastle in Australia before receiving her master's in design at the University of Technology, Sydney in 2007. She is influenced by a multitude of Asian-style cartoons, combined with graffiti and hip-hop culture.

Felipe Wong is a graphic designer and illustrator, born in 1981 in Costa Rica, Central America. He received his BA in graphic design from the University of Costa Rica in 2000. Wong's playful style, which consists of a very expressive visual language and sharp vivid colours, is influenced by commercial art due to his work in advertising and brand development for toys.

Hadrian Lam is a young street artist, as well as an architectural designer. Influenced by street artists and graffiti writers, he has been painting walls in interiors, public spaces, and abandoned buildings. His recent work explores the use of markers, spray paint, stencils, and brushwork.

Peter Yuill was born in Toronto, Canada. He received his BAA in illustration from Sheridan College in Ontario. Yuill grew up as a graffiti artist and urban explorer; he developed an intimate love affair with the streets and factories that have heavily influenced his work today. In 2012, he was awarded the Hong Kong Young Artist People's Prize. He also received the American Illustration 27 Chosen Award. His works have been exhibited around Hong Kong and Ontario, Canada.

Sinic was born in 1983 in Hong Kong, and began his artistic career in 2003. He merges elegant western graffiti with arbitrary Chinese calligraphy in an attempt to blur the definition of creativity and tradition.

Uns is a young Hong Kong-born artist. Her primary mediums include drawing and painting, and sometimes sculpture, which she uses to create installations that aim at reflecting the fragmented nature of contemporary life. She is currently working with local artists on various mural projects, seeking different ways to expand her artistic practice.

Artist Talks, Workshop, and Screenings

The following are all free and open to the public and will be held at Pearl Lam Galleries SOHO. More pop-up and surprise events will be held throughout the project period. For more details, please refer to www.pearllam.com or the Pearl Lam Galleries Facebook page.

Artist Talks

15 August, 3–4pm

'Street Art in Hong Kong; Being a Street Artist in Hong Kong'

Speaker: Cath Love

22 August, 3–4pm

'Being a Full-Time Artist'

Speaker: Bao

29 August, 3–4pm

'Hong Kong Street Art; Career as an Artist'

Speaker: Peter Yuill

29 August, 4–5pm

'Local Indie Music and Art'

Speaker: Jan Curious (Lead Singer of Chochukmo, and Illustrator)

Workshop

19 August, 3–4pm

'Every Child Can Be an Artist; Draw out Your Ideal Sai Ying Pun!'

Instructor: Uns

Ages: 10–16

Screenings

15 August–11 September, 3–4pm (daily)

On the Road

Artists SINIC, NAN, and WHYYY (IDT Crew) travelled for 50 straight days from Southwest China's Kunming to the highest region on Earth—Tibet, a journey of roughly 2,250 km to paint on an array of unique and unorthodox surfaces. *On the Road* is a documentary, supported by Converse, that highlights the entirety of the nearly two-month-long trip. It was first released in December 2012.

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Project Programme

10–13 August
14 August, 6–8pm

Live paintings' by nine HK-based street artists
Opening reception with DIY screen printing T-shirt workshop
presented by PrintHouse Hong Kong

15 August–11 September

Completed street art installation public viewing at the gallery
Various artist talks, workshop, screenings, and pop-up/surprise
events (check www.pearllam.com and Facebook for updates)

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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