

# PearlLam Galleries

Hong Kong Pedder Building

Begin Again

ZHOU YANGMING solo exhibition

Exhibition Dates 17 November–29 December, 2017 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 the first Hong Kong solo exhibition of Zhou Yangming (b. 1971), one of the most distinctive Chinese abstract artists. The show will feature his minimal yet intricate paintings from 2001 to 2017, which he primarily creates by painting line upon line. Every subtle short line displays the intersection of fluctuating and serene emotions, while documenting the artist's time and meditational practices.

"The world is your mirror: everything you see is what you want to see and is a projection of your inner being, not necessarily how the world actually is. In the pursuit of truth, we must purify the self. Every second of every day is a new beginning." —Zhou Yangming

Zhou Yangming's paintings are mainly based on lines and space. During the creation process, the artist feels the passage of time by painting lines repeatedly. Painting becomes a transformative activity that documents time, daily life, intentions, references, and communications. Each simple line is different, as it reflects the artist's state of mind and environment at the moment. Painting lines has become a part of the artist's everyday life; every line he paints is treated as a new beginning to a particular moment.

The *Dao De Jing* states, "The Way bears sensation, Sensation bears memory, Sensation and memory bear abstraction, and abstraction bears all the world." Zhou's works emphasize the repetition, continuity, and simplicity of the mind, especially infinite self-sufficiency. He uses his series of paintings to illustrate his concept of space instead of presenting it in every individual work. When Zhou starts to paint a line, the canvas turns into an infinite space. Space will never be limited; it is born out of a relationship between movement and transformation. The consciousness of writing and the ideas of his heart are always key elements in his creations. Zhou's intention is not to show the aesthetic value of calligraphy, the structure of characters, or meaning of words through his art; instead, it is to allow people to experience his state of mind and realm of meditation. Zhou believes that this is also the process one can follow to distance oneself from the chaos of urban life and to seek spiritual sustenance.

Zhou's studio is located in the Shanghai countryside, as he believes that living in tranquility and seclusion is the best way to immerse himself in painting and the meditative process. When he paints, Zhou is absorbed in the process and patiently continues until he is finished. He paints different colour fields and leaves a tiny space between them to create a square illusion as the bottom layer of his paintings and then applies a second layer by calmly painting line upon line. By leaving space, Zhou allows viewers to see the background colours and the intersection of emptiness and reality. The artist gazes at the toe of the paintbrush and feels the moment as the brush touches the canvas. The demanding process of painting every stroke leaves traces of the artist's presence.

Zhou's paintings do not possess a narrative logic. There is no reconstructed circumstance or conversation, but his works exhibit an implicit recognition between people, circumstances, and matter. Lines and brushstrokes within paintings are no longer decorative or manifestations of extreme spiritual utopian ideas; they are the reflection of daily life. Zhou does not use his works to project his ideas on people; instead, he allows their own spiritual characteristics to emerge. Lines within his paintings are transformed into ideographic carriers and become lifelike, igniting conversation.

## About Zhou Yangming

Born in 1971 in Taizhou, China, Zhou Yangming had been living and working in Beijing for over 20 years before moving to Shanghai, where he currently lives and works.

Zhou Yangming has held various solo exhibitions as well as participated in group exhibitions in China, Europe, and the USA. Important solo exhibitions include *Begin Again* (2017), Pearl Lam Galleries, Hong Kong, China; *Zhou Yangming Recent Works* (2012), Galerie Frank Schlag & Cie., Essen, Germany; and *Meticulous Transcendence* (2005), Onemoon Art, Beijing, China. Selected group exhibitions include *The Plane of Rewriting* (2017), Pearl Lam Galleries, Shanghai, China; *Emptiness in Time* (2016), BA Art Space, Shanghai, China; *Simple Is Good* (2015), Red Gate Gallery, Beijing, China; *Virtual Transcend Power—Six Chinese Abstract Artists* (2014), Museum für Aktuelle Kunst – Sammlung Hurrle, Germany; *Immaculate* (2014), Da Xiang Art Space, Taichung, Taiwan; *China – Germany: Abstract Painting Today* (2012), WILO Germany, Dortmund, Germany; *Yi Pai—Century Thinking* (2009), Today Art Museum, Beijing, China; *Yi Pai: 30 Years of Chinese “Abstraction”* (2008), CaixaForum, Palma/Barcelona/Madrid, Spain; and *Prayer Beads and Brush Strokes* (2003), Beijing Tokyo Art Projects, Beijing, China.

## 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 synthesize 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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## Press Enquiries

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