

Pearl Lam Galleries

Hong Kong H Queen's

Warped Matter, Curved Time

ARCANGELO SASSOLINO solo exhibition

Exhibition Dates 27 March–29 May, 2018 Monday–Saturday, 10am–7pm
Extended Hours 27–31 March, 9am–9pm
Venue Pearl Lam Galleries HK H Queen's, 9/F
H Queen's, 80 Queen's Road Central, Central, Hong Kong

Hong Kong— Pearl Lam Galleries is delighted to announce the opening of its new gallery at H Queen's, Hong Kong's latest art hub. *Warped Matter, Curved Time* is the first solo exhibition in Asia by Italian artist Arcangelo Sassolino. For over two decades, Sassolino has developed a visual language where the properties of physics—speed, gravity, pressure, and vibration—are marshalled to examine the friction between industrial progress and humanist concerns. His sculpture is both ethological and mechanized, poetic and menacing, pushing materials past their physical limitations and illustrating Modernism's process of becoming and unbecoming.

The exhibition contains three discrete bodies of work that each uses industrial material as its foil: concrete, glass, and rubber. Sassolino's large-scale, wall-mounted concrete sculptures transform the once rough building material into a reflective glass-like surface. Influenced by the pervasive and promiscuous use of concrete across Northern Italy's landscape, Sassolino sought to push the ubiquitous industrial material past its utilitarian applications where curved forms are created by its own weight rather than casting. The surface of the artworks is not polished; instead, the artist has pioneered a radical technique to reveal concrete's untapped potential where concave forms seem to float from the wall like portals, creating encounters that evoke the sublime and question perception. For his wall-mounted glass sculptures, sheets of 12mm thick glass are precisely hand cut and stacked in precise rectangular forms. The sculpture's edges, while seemingly benign and meticulous, reflect flaws and are dangerous to the touch. The layers of glass, held together by an industrial steel clamp and cantilevered from the wall, visualize the perpetual equilibrium between the *pressure* from the vice and the *resistance* of the glass: each material exerts the exact pressure necessary to hold its shape and resist shattering.

Also on view are a series of fully inflated, free-standing Pirelli truck tires whose initial circular form has been squeezed by several tons of pressure and held into shape by an industrial I-beam. The sculpture's immanent tension is created by the tires' relentless desire to return to their pristine inflated state, while indomitable steel beams hold the material into place. As if a modern day analogue to Giambologna, Sassolino's sculptures are a harbinger recalling the present dangers of unchecked industrial process and patriarchy.

Arcangelo Sassolino's sculptures provide ample clues to decode the artist's outlook on our shared global society: with titles including *Perdita di valori tradizionali* (*Loss of Traditional Values*), *Instabilità pretoria* (*Instability of the Praetorian Guard*), and *Marcus and Antonius*, the artist alludes to the Fall of Rome. Extending both the legacies of kinetic art and Arte Povera, Arcangelo Sassolino's work calls into question the often destructive qualities societies must possess to evolve, raising doubt about the nature of empathy in our contemporary consciousness.

About the Artist

Arcangelo Sassolino was born in Vicenza, Italy in 1967, where he lives and works. Sassolino's sculptures and installations explore mechanical behaviours, materials, and physical properties of force. By applying these properties to the natural world and behaviours, the artist examines the friction between industrial progress and environmental concerns.

Sassolino's works are carefully planned and researched, resulting in constructions of a high degree of physicality and forces applied by or on an object, as he pushes materials past their physical limitations. The tension, the expectation, and the awareness of risk—along with the powerful aesthetics of the works—play key roles in the experience of the spectators.

Arcangelo Sassolino has had solo exhibitions at Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis, USA (2016); the Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt, Germany (2016); Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France (2008); and MACRO Museum, Rome, Italy (2011), among other fine institutions. He also presented an environmental project at Z33 House for Contemporary Art, Hasselt, Belgium (2010) and in the context of Art and The City, Zurich, Switzerland (2012).

His works have been shown in public institutions such as the Grand Palais, Paris, France; Broad Art Museum, East Lansing, USA; Palazzo Ducale, Venice, Italy; Fundación Pablo Atchugarry, Punta del Este, Uruguay; Le 104, Paris, France; MART Museum, Rovereto, Italy; Guggenheim Collection, Venice, Italy; FRAC Museum Regional, Reims, France; Autocenter and MICA MOCA, Berlin, Germany; Tinguely Museum, Basel, Switzerland; CCC Strozzi, Florence, Italy; Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Venice, Italy; Kunsthalle Göppingen, Göppingen, Germany; ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany; and Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro, Milan, Italy.

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.

Further building on the Galleries' commitment, Pearl Lam Galleries is delighted to announce the opening of its new gallery at H Queen's, Hong Kong's latest art hub, in March 2018. The five gallery spaces of Pearl Lam Galleries in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Singapore represent an increasingly influential roster of contemporary artists. Chinese artists Su Xiaobai and Zhu Jinshi, 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 Leonardo Drew, Jenny Holzer, 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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