

# PearlLam Galleries

Singapore

## WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU SEE

Featuring works by Chun Kwang Young, Leonardo Drew, Kim Tschang-Yeul, Francis Ng, Su Xiaobai, Zhou Yangming and Zhu Jinshi

Exhibition dates 1–31 March, 2019  
Tuesday–Saturday, 11am–7pm; Sunday, noon–6pm

Venue Pearl Lam Galleries, 14A Dempsey Road, Singapore 249669

Singapore—Pearl Lam Galleries is pleased to present *What You See Is What You See*, a group show featuring works by Chun Kwang Young (b. 1944), Leonardo Drew (b. 1961), Kim Tschang-Yeul (b. 1929), Francis Ng (b. 1975), Su Xiaobai (b. 1949), Zhou Yangming (b. 1971) and Zhu Jinshi (b. 1954).

The show takes as a starting point Frank Stella's seemingly self-evident yet profound statement that has come to embody the legacy of Minimalism. Foregrounding the diversity in materials, processes and approaches that have burgeoned in Asia since Minimalism's zenith in the 1960s, the exhibited works acknowledge the movement's lasting influence while expanding its historical contexts and contemporary applications. In particular, Chun Kwan Young's use of Korean mulberry paper and Su Xiaobai's employment of Chinese lacquer technique recontextualize traditional materials and seek to connect to the artists' cultural roots. Rather than subverting systems of hierarchy and authority, the works are informed by Asian philosophies such as Taoism, Confucianism, and Zen Buddhism, sharing a tendency towards restrained expression, self-referentiality, a renouncement of figuration, and a paring down of the art object to its essential elements.

### About the Artists

**Chun Kwang Young** (b. 1944, Hongcheon County, Korea) received his BFA from Hongik University in Korea and MFA from the Philadelphia College of Art, USA. Known for his sculptural assemblages—both freestanding pieces and wall-hung low reliefs—Chun composes his forms from a myriad of small shapes wrapped in Korean mulberry paper. With a trompe l'oeil quality, his sculptures create the illusion of depth and coalescence and, ultimately, represent the harmony and conflict in the unity of many.

**Leonardo Drew** (b. 1961, Tallahassee, Florida, USA) attended the Parsons School of Design in New York and earned a BFA from Cooper Union in 1985. Rooted in historical evidence, Drew's abstract sculptural compositions are emotionally charged reflections on the cyclical nature of existence—from the eroded fibres of human industry and the urban tide of development to the awareness of ourselves as part of the fabric of a larger universe and a connection to all things.

**Kim Tschang-Yeul** (b. 1929, Maengsan, Korea) graduated from the College of Fine Arts at Seoul National University in 1950. Together with Park Seo-Bo and Chung Chang-Sup, Kim led the Korean Art Informel movement in the 1950s and 60s. Shortly after his participation in the Paris Biennale in 1961 and the São Paulo Biennale in 1965, Kim studied at the Art Students League of New York from 1966 to 1968 and moved to Paris in 1969, where he began his *Recurrence* series in the early 70s, depicting opaque liquid. The liquid form gradually transformed into his distinctive trademark style of spherical transparent "water drops" after the mid-70s, which has been Kim's focus for over four decades.

**Francis Ng** (b. 1975, Singapore) graduated with a BFA with Distinction (2001) and MFA (2005) from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University, Australia. His work delves into the process of self-negotiation between the individual and spaces—historical spaces, in-between spaces, and non-spaces within the confines of a chosen site. Ng finds that the history of “presence” in space seems to go unnoticed in the constantly changing system of modern times, especially in the context of Singapore’s city planning. Ng hopes to give a voice to the silenced sites through highlighting the necessities of constant changes to spaces, and how these changes will in turn affect people and alter the social fabric in his practice.

**Su Xiaobai** (b. 1949, Wuhan, Hubei Province, China) is one of China’s most distinctive painters. Su has developed a sensuous yet rigorous art that defies classification, and yet whose own chosen medium, lacquer, is steeped in Chinese history. Su’s works are both hedonistic and mystical, defiantly sculptural while exquisitely painted. Ranging from shell-like finishes to sensuous, curved profiles and abraded textures, they exist entirely on their own terms, possessing their own history, character and independent existence. Rather than depicting other objects, his art engages with the idea of being itself. At its centre, Su’s work uses the visual language and context of art to embody issues which are both philosophical and, at an everyday human level, universal.

**Zhou Yangming** (b. 1971, Taizhou, China) lives and works in Beijing. In 1996, he joined Xu Beihong’s studio to improve his artistic practice. Later, Zhou moved to Songzhuang artist village. Currently, he lives and works in Shanghai. The artist’s works revolve around lines and space; for over 10 years, Zhou has continued to paint short lines regularly and repeatedly every day. Every subtle short line shows the intersection of fluctuant and serene emotion. The artist feels the passage of time by breathing. This process is not rooted in the arts or connected to any goals, but is fused with everyday life. Painting is a transformative activity that documents his meditations and practices.

**Zhu Jinshi** (b. 1954, China) is a pioneer of Chinese abstract and installation art. He began to create abstract paintings in the early 1980s and moved to Berlin in 1986. Since then, he has been experimenting with performance, installation, and conceptual art. In 1994, Zhu returned to China, dividing his time between Berlin and Beijing until 2010. At present, he lives and works in Beijing. Zhu Jinshi’s works have been collected internationally by notable public and private collections.

## 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 in Asia, Pearl Lam Galleries is delighted to announce the opening of its new gallery space at Dempsey Hill in March 2019. The four 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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## Press Enquiries

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