

PearlLam Galleries

Shanghai

WEST BUND ART & DESIGN 2019

Stand A103

Public Hours	Friday, 8 November, 12–7pm Saturday, 9 November, 10am–7pm Sunday, 10 November, 10am–7pm
Venue	West Bund Art Center, No. 2555 Longteng Avenue, Shanghai, China

Shanghai—Pearl Lam Galleries is excited to announce its return to the sixth edition of West Bund Art & Design, one of the largest-scale world-class art and design fairs in China. Once again, international audiences will turn their focus to the Shanghai waterfront during the second week of November. As one of Asia's leading galleries with two spaces in Hong Kong and one in Shanghai, Pearl Lam Galleries will present works by a range of international contemporary artists, including Chinese artists Su Xiaobai and Zhu Jinshi; Korean artists Chun Kwang Young, Kim Tae-Ho, Hoon Kwak, and Lee Ufan; British artist Peter Peri; Indonesian artist Gatot Pujiarto; and Japanese artist Yoshitomo Nara.

About the Artists

CHUN KWANG YOUNG

Known for his sculptural assemblages—both freestanding pieces and wall-hung low reliefs—Chun Kwang Young (b. 1944) 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. Inspired by childhood memories of clusters of medicine packages, wrapped in mulberry paper and hung from the ceiling at the clinic, his well-known sculptural *Aggregations* feature hand-cut triangles of polystyrene, individually wrapped in delicate mulberry paper torn from old books, resulting in strikingly textured low-relief wall works.

KIM TAE-HO

The Galleries will be showing acrylic on canvas works by Kim Tae-Ho (b. 1948), one of the leading artists of Korean monochrome art, for the first time. Kim explores the possibilities of paint as well as spatial concepts through his three-dimensional grid paintings *Internal Rhythm*. The works are labour-intensive, as the artist follows his own rhythm to interweave over 20 thick layers of brushstrokes on the canvas until they have accumulated into a substantial mass. Then, he deconstructs the mass by scraping through the layers of paint to reveal the colours underneath, creating an overlapping grid with each cell possessing its own unique characteristics to form a visually cohesive whole.

HOON KWAK

Korean artist Hoon Kwak's (b. 1941) work represents the profound spiritual world of Buddhism and Eastern philosophy. The Galleries' stand highlights his *Halaayt* series, which the artist has been developing over the last two years. The paintings depict different scenes of human figures paddling a canoe and sailing adrift in open water or at times near a whale. *Halaayt* is a form of shamanistic healing experienced through a ceremonial being. The indigenous community views the practice of halaayt as a means to achieving a higher level of epistemological understanding of where mankind stands in relation to a changing world.

LEE UFAN

The Galleries will also exhibit a painting from a key figure of Mono-ha, Lee Ufan (b. 1936). *From Line* is a renowned series that features multiple lines painted from the top to the bottom of the canvas with repetitive brushstrokes that gradually fade towards the end. Lee's ritualistic process involves him controlling his breath and the amount of pigment as he uses a round-tipped brush to fluidly apply the paint onto a canvas laid flat on the floor. Lee emphasizes the material and approaches painting from a sculptural perspective, as he shapes the work, taking into account the physical properties of paint and the pull of the brush. He hopes viewers will reflect on the concepts of space and time as they view the beginning and end of the lines.

YOSHITOMO NARA

The Galleries will also be showing an acrylic on wood piece by Japanese artist Yoshitomo Nara (b. 1959), known for his work featuring children with often sulky or menacing expressions that fuse Japanese and Western influences. Nara began his art studies in his home country and continued them in Germany, where he lived for over 10 years before returning to Japan. Inspired by punk and rock music, Nara's cartoon-like paintings give viewers a glimpse into the artist's own feelings of isolation and rebelliousness. On show at the stand is the 2008 large-scale work *Broken Heart Bench (New Castle Version)* that depicts a lone figure staring defiantly at the audience.

PETER PERI

Using a combination of marker pen and spray paint, Peter Peri's (b. 1971) recent "House" paintings inspired by astrology are structured into four sections with rhythmic bands that are determined by a set of processes that in each painting is specific to one of the 28 lunar houses. The placement of each line is originally determined by the empty square in the centre, and the composition is completed by following a precise numeric formula applied to colour that results in an unearthly play of vibrancy and luminosity. Peri develops painting, sculpture, and drawing as three distinct bodies of work. He uses this initial creative separation to provoke unexpected interrelations, attempting to open a space of empathic encounter between the audience and the objects displayed.

GATOT PUJIARTO

Featuring fabric as their main medium, Indonesian artist Gatot Pujiarto's (b. 1970) works are tactile in nature and expressive in spirit. The visual sensation in his works is combined with the unique textures that are created by sewing, pasting, patching, layering, tearing and binding pieces of fabric. By utilizing this distinctive collage and weathering technique—either applied on canvas or installed in the form of tapestry, his work aims to stir up emotions and provoke audiences to reinterpret daily occurrences as a new reality. At its stand, the Galleries will present *Machine Man* (2019), which depicts a robotic looking human figure using paper collage and hanging pieces of thread.

SU XIAOBAI

Su Xiaobai (b. 1949) has developed his own technique using lacquer, a medium steeped in Chinese history, to create works that combine elements of painting and sculpture. He focuses on essential qualities like colour, shape, and texture, which in various combinations produce unique surfaces that range from smooth and sensuous to carved and abraded. Each piece exudes its own history, character, and independent presence.

ZHU JINSHI

Zhu Jinshi (b. 1954), a pioneer of Chinese abstract art, will exhibit his “thick paintings”. His wall-hung works, executed in the mature period of his career, present themselves as low reliefs with paint that has been applied using spatulas and shovels almost dripping off the canvas. After 30 years of unwavering efforts, Zhu's three-dimensional abstract paintings break the constraints of a flat canvas and transform the traditional visual experience.

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 and Shanghai 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 three branches of Pearl Lam Galleries in Hong Kong and Shanghai 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 CBE, 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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