

PEARL LAM

Fine Art

NON-GEOMETRIC STUDY: LEI HONG SOLO SHOW

Curated by David Chan

Exhibition Dates

15th April-14th May, 2012

Opening reception on Saturday, 14th April, 5-7pm

Pearl Lam Fine Art, No. 181 Middle Jiangxi Road, G/F, Shanghai, China 200002

SHANGHAI - Pearl Lam Fine Art Shanghai today announced the next exhibition in their dynamic programme, a ten-year retrospective of works by Chinese abstract artist Lei Hong. The show entitled ***Non-Geometric Study*** will open on **Saturday, 14th April** and feature 34 works including sculpture, installation, painting and drawing.

Non-Geometric Study focuses on work that explores the philosophical core of Chinese abstract art. The composition of dots, lines and squares in the drawings are not conceptual but are marks that relate to traditional Chinese ink painting. They also depict the spiritual experience of the artist during the process of creation.

Displaying characteristics of Western abstract paintings in which structural and abstract tension lie beneath the painting's surface, Lei's work explores the spatial relationship between 'existence' and 'emptiness', as well as 'real' and 'virtual'. His marks suggest a narrative about his imagination and his feelings at a given moment. In his work, the geometric formality and the space itself become the visual expression of a cognitive process where intuition and transcendence are key.

Lei Hong says: "The meaning of art goes beyond languages and images. The literal expressions and emotional narratives in my work are only understood through the artistic appreciation of an individual. This first solo show at Pearl Lam Fine Art marks a milestone since I first started creating abstract art in 1999. All of these works are fragmented records of my daily life over this past decade."

David Chan says: "With works in both two and three dimensions, the artist himself makes a strong statement that he aims to transcend normal and mundane relations by redefining visibility while extending periphery. The exhibition as a whole becomes a journey that has actualized different modes of thinking about 'space' into a variety of forms: poetic, architectural, pictorial, illusionary, and imaginative."

Exhibition Highlights

Real/Unreal (2005) projects the awareness of infinite space into a limited squared shape, in which geometry is not based on pure rational structural elements, but instead reveals a metaphysical tension. *Displacement* (2003) evokes a representational space related to subjective memories, transitions and visual histories. Blurring the boundaries between form and formlessness, ordinary and extraordinary, the rational and the absurd, this work reflects an aesthetic in which the absence of fixed definitions and visual interference offers an indirect way of penetrating reality and growing closer to the truth.

About Lei Hong

Lei Hong was born in Dujiangyan City, Sichuan Province in 1972. He graduated from the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute with a master's degree in Environmental Sculpture in 2003 and currently teaches at the Fine Arts College of Qingdao University. Since the mid-1990s, he has drawn tens of thousands of pencil sketches which, being composed of dots, lines and squares, have the characteristics of Western abstract paintings. However, it is very hard to identify any rational elements of Western abstract art in his works. Instead, they reveal a spirit of humanism, which never carries abstraction to extreme conceptuality. Professor Gao Minglu considers him a maximalist and he has participated in the group exhibition *China Maximalism* in 2003, which was shown in both Beijing and New York, as well as the more recent *Mind Space: Maximalism in Contrasts* held in Shanghai (2010) and Pittsburgh (2011). The exhibition is on view at Hillwood Art Museum, Long Island University, Brookville, New York, USA, until 6th April, 2012. Lei Hong currently lives and work in Qingdao.

About Pearl Lam Galleries

Pearl Lam started exhibiting and promoting Chinese contemporary art and design in 1993 in Hong Kong. Currently with three gallery spaces in Shanghai: a Fine Art Gallery, dedicated Design Gallery and special project space, Pearl Lam Galleries has a strong network of new spaces opening across the region in the next 2 years, including the gallery space in Hong Kong in May 2012, a new design gallery in Shanghai, and the opening of a major space at the Gilman Barracks, Singapore in 2013.

Presenting an exhibition programme of the highest quality, Pearl Lam Galleries has championed the promotion and re-evaluation of the philosophy, perceptions and aesthetics of Chinese art for almost 20 years. From an early stage, popular touring shows such as *as Awakening: La France Mandarine, the French influence on Chinese Art* (2004-2006) characterised the exhibition programme with their intercultural dialogue and dynamic work by international artists from established and emerging markets. Exhibiting Chinese artists such as Lan Zhenghui, Li Tianbing, Shao Fan, Zhang Huan, Zheng Chongbin, Zhu Jinshi and Wang Dongling reinterpret traditions, fuse cross-cultural influences and examine China today. The exhibition programme also presents major international artists stimulating cross-cultural dialogue and cultural exchange between China and the rest of the world.

Pearl Lam Galleries has tirelessly promoted design as an art form in China. Pearl Lam has funded an artist-in-residence programme for Western and Asian artists and designers. Pearl Lam Design shows works by established and emerging international designers including André Dubreuil, Maarten Baas, Mattia Bonetti, and Studio Makkink & Bey. They are invited to push the boundaries of traditional Chinese art and craft techniques and create new works that reflect their experiences in China.

Pearl Lam Galleries represents:

Artists: He Xiangyu, Lan Zhenghui, Lei Hong, Li Tianbing, Li Xiaojing, Qiu Zhenzhong, Shao Fan, Wang Dongling, Wang Qingsong, Wei Ligang, Yi Zhou, Zheng Chongbin, Zhu Jinshi and Qin Yufen.
Designers: Maarten Baas, Mattia Bonetti, Reinier Bosch, Patrice Butler, Drift, André Dubreuil, Studio Makkink & Bey, Martin Szekely, Peter Ting, WOKmedia, Philip Michael Wolfson, XYZ Design, and Danful Yang for XYZ Design.

Pearl Lam Galleries will soon have its website online at www.pearllam.com.

Press Enquiries

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