

PEARL LAM GALLERIES PRESENTS THE SOLO SITE-SPECIFIC PROJECT BY HONG KONG ARTIST TSANG KIN-WAH

ECCE HOMO TRILOGY I

Curated by David Ho Yeung Chan

HONG KONG - Pearl Lam Galleries is pleased to present the second exhibition at its new Hong Kong gallery – a solo site-specific project, *Ecce Homo Trilogy I*, by Hong Kong artist **Tsang Kin-Wah**. Featuring a body of new artworks by the artist, *Ecce Homo Trilogy I* includes a large-scale text based installation, a series of video projections, and text paintings on aluminium plates. Centering on footage taken from the 1989 televised trial and subsequent public execution of Nicolae Ceausescu, the former Romanian leader of the communist regime, this in-situ project explores the subject of judgment and in particular, our moral complexity in response to formulating a judgment and the extent to which that compromises our dignity as a human being. Tsang Kin-Wah forces the visitor to engage in the work, involving them consciously as an observer, and encouraging them to consider how one human would go about making a judgment of another.

Tsang Kin-Wah said, "'Ecce Homo'—Latin for 'behold the man'—is the phrase used by Pontius Pilate when presenting Jesus to the public before his crucifixion, which also became the title of a book written by Nietzsche. By referencing the last judgment of Jesus and Nietzsche's philosophy, *Ecce Homo Trilogy I*, a series of multi-channel video installations, tries to question the impartialness of a judgment plus its existence, and reveal the powerlessness of the one being judged at a particular period of time and environment. At the same time, it attempts to depict the emotions of the one being judged, as well as the dense and tense atmosphere throughout the whole process. The documenting and broadcasting of the judgment and execution of so-called dictators through the media and sharing platforms allows people in different parts of the world to unintentionally become witnesses and participants of the judgment, just like those in the crowd who were told by Pilate to 'Behold the Man' ('Ecce Homo')."

David Chan, curator of *Ecce Homo Trilogy I* said, "Tsang Kin-Wah has taken a long term interest in the study of Nietzsche and religion. His works typically deconstruct dominant Western ideologies. By inviting the audience to witness a traumatic situation, Tsang intends to reverse 'behold the man' to 'behold the audience': for the gaze to be on the viewers instead and to ask them how they go about making a value judgment and its moral consequences. In many ways, experiencing Tsang Kin-Wah's project is like looking at a classical religious painting, but instead of contemplating the many nuances of a static scene, the artist consummates the viewing experience with different media. The combination of large-scale in situ wall text, paintings and video projections asks us to become more conscious of our own movements in the gallery space, thereby becoming self-reflexive in how we judge something by looking. The text-based paintings on aluminum panels throughout the gallery are intended to create illusionary openings inside the space making the gallery look like a jail where we are locked in, only to contemplate our own thoughts."

Pearl Lam, founder of Pearl Lam Galleries said, "Coming from Hong Kong, I am proud to be showing leading Hong Kong artist Tsang Kin-Wah. This is the first time the gallery will exhibit a Hong Kong artist. Hong Kong is being transformed into a major contemporary art centre, attracting both an international and local audience. Tsang Kin-Wah will be creating a new especially commissioned project for our space, which has universal relevance and, I believe, will have a deep impact on all visitors to the exhibition."

Exhibition Dates

27th July-27th August, 2012
Monday-Saturday, 10am-7pm

Pearl Lam Galleries, 601-605, 6/F, Pedder Building, 12 Pedder Street, Central, Hong Kong

Press Enquiries

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About Tsang Kin-Wah

Tsang Kin-Wah was born in Shantou, China in 1976, and now lives and works in Hong Kong. He graduated from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Camberwell College of Arts, the London Institute.

Tsang's solo exhibitions include *MAM Project 015: Tsang Kin-Wah*, at Mori Art Museum (2011) and *Tsang Kin-Wah*, at Yvon Lambert Gallery in Paris (2008) and New York (2007). He has also exhibited widely in group exhibitions such as the Asian Art Biennial, Taichung (2011), *Architecture of Fear* at Z33 House for Contemporary Art, Hasselt, Belgium (2011), Aichi Triennale, Nagoya (2010), 17th Biennale of Sydney (2010), 10th Biennale de Lyon (2009), as well as in leading museums in Helsinki, Madrid, Moscow, the Netherlands, Seoul, Shanghai and Oslo.

Tsang has also received numerous awards including the Tokyo Type Directors Club Prize 2007, Sovereign Asian Art Prize 2005 and the Prize of Excellence at the Hong Kong Art Biennial 2001. His works are found in major collections worldwide, including the DSL Collection, Deutsch Bank Collection (Hong Kong), Mori Art Museum (Tokyo), Museum of Design Zurich (Switzerland), Hong Kong Museum of Art, Camberwell College of Arts (London), Sovereign Art Foundation and the Thomas Shao Collection.

About David Chan

David Ho Yeung Chan is a curator based in Hong Kong and Shanghai. He was the director of the Shanghai Gallery of Art at Three on the Bund from 2007 to 2009, and subsequently the director of Osage Gallery until 2011. Chan has curated many exhibition projects in the past with artists including Chen Shaoxiong, Gu Dexin, Lee Kit, Lin Yilin, Michael Lin, Tsuyoshi Ozawa, Wang Jianwei, Yan Lei and others. He holds an MA from the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College.

About Pearl Lam Galleries

Pearl Lam started exhibiting and promoting Chinese contemporary art and design in 1993 in Hong Kong. Currently, Pearl Lam Galleries consists of two spaces in Shanghai: a Fine Art Gallery and special project space; and the recently-launched gallery in Hong Kong. Pearl Lam Galleries will also open a new design gallery in Shanghai and a major space at Gilman Barracks in Singapore in 2013.

Presenting an exhibition program 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 *Awakening: La France Mandarine, the French influence on Chinese Art* (2004-06) characterised the exhibition program 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, Wang Dongling, Zhang Huan, Zheng Chongbin, and Zhu Jinshi reinterpret traditions, fuse cross-cultural influences and examine China today. The exhibition program also presents major solo exhibitions of 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 program for artists and designers across the globe. 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 Hong Kong

Pearl Lam Galleries, Asia's most dynamic art gallery dedicated to Chinese and international contemporary art and design, holds a 340sqm gallery located on the 6th floor of the historic Grade II listed Pedder Building, alongside Gagosian, Ben Brown and Hanart TZ, at the heart of Hong Kong's growing contemporary art scene.

The Hong Kong gallery programme will feature both fine art and design exhibitions to complement the existing programs of the Shanghai galleries. It will continue to support young emerging artists such as Tsang Kin-Wah. The gallery will also bring solo shows by major international artists to Hong Kong including Jenny Holzer and Yinka Shonibare in 2013.

Pearl Lam Galleries in Hong Kong will further build the Galleries' long-standing ethos for presenting an exhibition program of the very highest quality, collaborating with emerging and established artists and renowned curators, and promoting cross-cultural and multidisciplinary art from both Asia and the West.

Pearl Lam Galleries works with:

Artists: He Xiangyu, Lan Zhenghui, Lei Hong, Li Tianbing, Li Xiaojing, Qin Yufen, Qiu Zhenzhong, Shao Fan, Wang Dongling, Wei Ligang, Yi Zhou, Zheng Chongbin, and Zhu Jinshi.

Designers: Maarten Baas, Mattia Bonetti, Patrice Butler, André Dubreuil, Studio Makkink & Bey, Martin Szekely, Peter Ting, WOKmedia, Philip Michael Wolfson, XYZ Design, and Danful Yang for XYZ Design.