

PearlLam Galleries

Hong Kong

ART BASEL in Hong Kong 2021

Stand 1D14

VIP Preview	Wednesday – Thursday, 19 May – 20 May, 2–8pm
	Friday, 21 May, 2–4pm
Vernissage	Friday, 21 May, 4–9pm
Public Hours	Saturday, 22 May, 2–8pm
	Sunday, 23 May, 2–6pm
Venue	Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre 1 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Pearl Lam Galleries is pleased to participate in the Galleries sector of Art Basel Hong Kong 2021. On view is a selection of curated artworks by artists from different generations and cultural backgrounds.

Exhibiting artists include Jana Benitez (b. 1985, USA), Mr Doodle, (b. 1994, UK), Leonardo Drew (b. 1961, USA), Sam Francis (1923–1994, USA), Kim Tae ho (b. 1948, S.Korea), Zanele Muholi (b. 1972, South Africa), Su Xiaobai (b. 1949, China), Zhang Huan (b. 1965, China) and Zhu Jinshi (b. 1954, China).

South African-based Zanele Muholi prefers to be called a “Visual Activist”. Her *Somnyama Ngonyama (Hail the Dark Lioness)* takes self-portraiture as a starting point to confront historical racism. These poignant black and white photographs are deeply personal, amplifying the subject’s “blackness” to reverse the gaze back onto the beholder as a form of resistance.

Sage is a recent gestural painting by Jana Benitez that explores the potential of art as a vehicle for spiritual healing. *Sage*’s composition echoes the proportions of a human form dissected by a central vertical axis like a spine. An experimental interplay of sensation, viscera, and colour fields entices a physical encounter with another individual.

Not interested in following the Dansaekhwa style that swept through South Korea during the latter half of the 20th century, but keenly aware of the development of American abstract expressionism, Kim Tae Ho has taken a unique creative trajectory with his textured paintings. On view are two historical *Form* paintings from 1990 that utilize mixed materials on canvas. Hanji paper is scratched and ripped to create an intricate relief surface. For Kim, the act of painting embraces the possibility of chances and serves as a subtle enclave for depositing his thoughts and emotions.

Untitled is a seminal painting by Sam Francis, one of the leading American artists of the 20th century. Although associated with the Abstract Expressionist movement and Clement Greenberg’s Post-Painterly Abstraction, Francis was heavily influenced by Asian philosophy during his stay in Paris during the 1950s. The lack of visual hierarchy in *Untitled* among forms, colours, and lines encourages the viewers to contemplate the meaning of whiteness or, in Francis’s words, our “chromatic blindness”. One could argue that the artist’s preoccupation with pictorial white space has something to do with his long confinement in a hospital due to a back injury after serving in World War II.

As a result of a DAAD residency in Berlin during the late 1980s, Beijing-based Zhu Jinshi has found himself increasingly looking inward at his Chinese roots, particularly the rich traditions of calligraphy, cursive script, poetry, Taoism, and Buddhism. Taking an early interest in social sculpture by Joseph Beuys, Zhu's revisionist style, as shown in his work *Traveller*, examines the formal language of painting from a spiritual and nihilistic perspective.

Leonardo Drew's works are always sculptural. Attaching new and found remnants onto panels or directly onto the wall, his laborious works often reflect on his upbringing as an Afro-American. *Number 20C* expresses our reliance on materiality to seek a sensation amidst a tectonic and cosmic universe.

Considered one of China's key avant-garde artists, Zhang Huan moved to New York and returned to Shanghai in 2005. On view is one of his ash paintings created with incense ash collected from Buddhist temples and sorted by shade. The ash creates a sense of historical authenticity and transcends its material properties to become a symbol of the collective memories, wishes, and prayers of the Chinese people. This unusual material resonates with the artist's deep connection to the philosophy of Pratitya in Buddhism, which focuses on the interconnectivity of all things.

The oeuvre of Su Xiaobai, a Wuhan native, has been impacted by his studies at the Kunstakademie in Düsseldorf during the late 1980s, along with his aesthetic and philosophic practice rooted in the Chinese traditions. By applying and polishing traditional Chinese lacquer on linen, qualities of light, shadows, depth of texture, tactile sensations, and movement all come into play. Su questions notions of embodiment and restraint with a spirited vessel.

Mr Doodle describes his art practice as a relentless happy doodle virus that consumes everything in its path. Since creating a new visual phenomenon, the iconic "Doodleland", the artist's core belief has always been to provide an open platform for audiences of all ages and cultures to enjoy art as a form of release or meditation. Through the depiction of dense clusters of characters, objects, and patterns with markers that grow organically across an expansive picture plane and even on the façade or interior of a building, Mr Doodle's improvisations celebrate uninhibited freedom of expression and its social anxiety as a result of the commodification of culture both high and low. On view is a series of recent artworks by Mr Doodle.

About Pearl Lam Galleries

Pearl Lam Galleries is a driving force within Asia's contemporary art scene. Founded in 2005, the gallery plays a vital role in stimulating international dialogue and cross-cultural exchange between the East and West.

Following a rigorous programme, Pearl Lam Galleries presents museum-quality exhibitions that re-evaluate and challenge perceptions of cultural practice in Asia. With a thoughtfully balanced roster of Chinese and international artists, the gallery is strategic in its curation, positioning itself as an educator.

The gallery maintains a flagship space in the historic Pedder Building in Hong Kong, whilst the Shanghai gallery is situated in the heart of the Bund district. With a team of international staff, Pearl Lam Galleries' reach is global, having presentations at major international art fairs including The Armory Show, Art Cologne, Art Basel Hong Kong, Frieze Masters, and West Bund Art and Design.

Press Enquiries

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